

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



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FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk April 24, 2016

North & West edition No 709

POLICE

Who should you vote for as PCC?

We profile every candidate at the May 5 election

HEALTH

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We speak to man who had surgery at Calais hospital

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Upcoming polling days seem to be poles apart

IN LESS than two weeks time we will be heading to the polling booths for a vote where the main challenge for the candidates appears not just to raise awareness of the fact they are bidding for office, but that there's an election actually taking place.

Because try as they might to heighten its profile, the reality is that the second police and crime commissioner election is hardly setting the world on fire.

And, as a consequence, it is hard not to imagine we are staring down the barrel of another low turnout gun.

This week, we aim to give you, at the very least, a sound starting point for you to not only engage in the process, and a fair idea as to what the role involves, but also a broad overview of all the main candidates.

Of course, you may read it and still not be convinced it's



Editor **Chris Britcher**

worthy of you turning out on May 5 to place a vote. But, as ever, just remember that if you don't vote and you don't like who triumphs, well, you only have yourself to blame.

June's EU referendum does not, of course, suffer from the same problem. But while the PCC elections can be clarified if you devote 10 minutes to it, the issue of staying in or out is based on so many variables the hard and fast facts we all demand would appear simply not to exist.

And that has made for a very messy campaign where each day brings

with it another clump of mud being flung between the opposing camps. There is a danger of it all becoming rather undignified...assuming, of course, it hasn't already toppled over into just that.

As ever, don't hesitate in letting us know your views on the issues. See our letters page for all the details.

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Wilson: I'll ride into the sunset after PCC ruling

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL property tycoon Fergus Wilson has lost his bid to stand for the role of Kent's police and crime commissioner.

He was barred from running for the £85,000-a-year position earlier this month when his nomination papers were rejected by the electoral returning officer Nadeem Aziz of Dover District Council for failing to have completed the necessary legal steps.

The rules claim the poll card numbers and signatures of 100 registered electors must be submitted by hand, which Mr Wilson failed to do in time.

He then applied for a judicial review at the High Court on Thursday, but a ruling was made in favour of the council.

As a result, Mr Wilson was ordered to pay £20,000 in costs, although the council was also required to find £6,000.

"I'm going to ride off into the sunset," Mr Wilson told KoS. "I would have liked the job but I'm nearly 68, so in four years I'll be too old to run so it was my last chance.



REJECTED: Property tycoon Fergus Wilson lost his High Court appeal into standing in the PCC election

"What it has shown is that election law has a short timetable and how difficult it is for an independent to run, without that political machine behind you.

"This has cost me money but also £6,000 for the taxpayer."

Mr Wilson insisted that he has still been receiving messages of support in recent weeks, with some threatening to stage a boycott of the May 5 election in protest at the decision.

"I wish all the candidates all the luck in the world," he said.

"But it's unfortunate that a number of people have indicated they intend to boycott the election.

"They vote for the person not the politics, and people might wonder in the coming months 'what would have happened if Fergus got in?'"

Mr Aziz said: "We can confirm that Mr Justice Cranston has refused permission for Mr Wilson to apply for judicial review in the

High Court.

"The election will now proceed with the six candidates validly nominated appearing on the ballot paper."

Mr Wilson and his wife Judith, who live in Maidstone, are in the process of selling their £250million property portfolio.

■ See pages 19-24 for extended profiles of each of the confirmed candidates running for the PCC position.

Police fined £80,000 for passing sensitive phone data to suspect officer

KENT Police has been hit with an £80,000 fine after sensitive personal details of a woman who had accused her partner, a police officer, of domestic abuse were passed to the suspect.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said the force had failed to "take seriously" the need to keep personal details secure.

The accused's solicitor was handed the entire contents of the complainant's mobile phone. An ICO investigation was subsequently launched and Kent Police found to have contravened the Data Protection Act and handed the fine.

Stephen Eckersley, ICO head of enforcement, said: "Kent Police was investigating a serious matter yet the need to take proper care of the personal details they were entrusted with does not appear to have been taken seriously.

"This fine should serve as a warning to other forces that it is vital they have robust measures in place to protect individuals' personal data and guard against such inappropriate disclosures."

The complainant had given her phone to Kent Police because it contained a video recording she said supported her accusation against her partner, who was a police officer.

Her phone also contained lots of other files, with sensitive personal data including text messages and family photographs.

The officer was subject to a professional standards investigation by Kent Police into misconduct.

The force sent the officer's solicitor the data contained in the woman's mobile phone by mistake in advance of the misconduct hearing. The solicitor then disclosed the information to his client.

A spokesperson for Kent Police said: "When the data breach became apparent Kent Police referred itself to the Information Commissioner and fully cooperated with the investigation. As soon as the breach was identified a new standard operating procedure was implemented."

Transformer 'the size of a house' to close the A20

MOTORISTS are being warned of disruption on the roads overnight on Monday as a huge electricity transformer - the size of a house - is taken, by road, from a substation in Sellindge to Dover docks.

The A20 will be closed from the junction with the B2011 to the York Street roundabout between 9pm on Monday and 5am on Tuesday.

The transformer is being

shipped to Germany for essential maintenance.

It is being transported on a specialist vehicle over 75 metres long and 5.6 metres wide. Travelling at a speed of approximately 12mph the transformer will also have a police escort to ensure the delivery goes smoothly.

After reaching Dover it will be shipped to Nuremberg.

Brothel manager starts jail term for hiring hookers

A CHATHAM man who ran brothels across the county by forcing Lithuanian women to work as prostitutes has been jailed for three-and-a-half years.

Tomas Ziemys, 31, of High Grove Road, was arrested after a raid on a suspected brothel in Strood in October.

As a result of the investigation three Lithuanian women were identified by police as being

illegally trafficked into the county and forced to work as prostitutes.

Ziemys was identified as being involved in an organised criminal network using the internet to recruit women in Lithuania to work in the UK, and managed the brothels.

He was sentenced to 42 months behind bars after being found guilty following a trial at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday.



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Duo conned 95-year-old and stole £60 in cash

TWO women have been jailed after posing as charity workers to steal from the home of a 95-year-old. Kelly Jeffery, 32, formerly of Duncan Road, Gillingham, and Rebecca Lee, 34, of no fixed address, tricked their way into the property in the Shakespeare Road area of Gillingham, before making off with £60 cash from their victim's handbag.

Both pleaded guilty to burglary and were sentenced to 27 months' imprisonment each when they appeared at Maidstone Crown Court earlier this week.

Det Con Aaron Chapman said: "Kelly Jeffery and Rebecca Lee targeted a vulnerable woman in her own home and should feel thoroughly ashamed of themselves for their actions."



GUILTY: Teacher Lauren Cox

Teacher guilty of relationship with pupil, 16

A 27-year-old female teacher has pleaded guilty to a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old student she first met when he was just 13.

Lauren Cox, of Hazelwood Heights, Oxted, appeared at Croydon Crown Court on Wednesday.

She pleaded guilty to five counts of sexual activity with a child under 18 in a position of trust. He was a pupil at the Bromley secondary school she worked at.

Cox first met the child in 2012 just weeks after starting a job at the school and the victim said they formed a close relationship.

She began a sexual relationship with the teenager in January 2015, meeting after school and during school holidays – even sending him explicit photographs and videos of herself.

But in August 2015 the student ended the relationship after his parents found out. When Cox continued to message the boy, his parents informed the headmaster of the school.

She will return to court on May 19 for sentencing.

PC Laura Davies said: "Cox groomed the boy which went on to sexual abuse. The abuse has had an extremely adverse effect on the boy. She displayed dismissive arrogance to the seriousness of the allegations against her."

Anger grows over police delay on gang sex attack revelations at Bluewater

By Chris Britcher

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POLICE investigating a gang sex attack in a car park at shopping centre Bluewater have looked to reassure the public after wild rumours started to spreading across social media.

It follows an incident, only revealed this week, where a woman in her 20s was attacked between 6.30pm and 9pm on Sunday, March 6 – Mother's Day – at the hugely popular complex.

Police have defended the decision to wait so long to reveal the details claiming they had swiftly identified the suspects.

Police said 11 people, aged between 16 and 22, had been arrested and released on bail with conditions – one of which has since been released without charge.

But it stressed it was being treated as an isolated incident and no other incidents are being linked to the offence.

In addition it confirmed all 11 arrested men are from Kent and none



SHOCK: Bluewater

are Muslim – as some reports have suggested.

A spokesman said: "We appreciate the public concern in relation to this incident but would like to reassure members of the public that we have

made arrests and at this stage we are not looking for anyone else in connection with the case.

"A full investigation is under way and work to gather evidence continues, but if anyone has any information that they have not brought to our attention we would encourage them to do so."

A spokesman for Bluewater, which is the fourth largest shopping centre in the UK, said: "Kent Police is investigating an incident that took place in a Bluewater car park."

"From day one this has been a police matter and therefore we can't and don't comment on an ongoing investigation."

"The safety and well-being of our staff and guests is our highest priority. Bluewater's security procedures are regularly reviewed and tested, and we have a 24-hour security team and dedicated on-site Kent Police officers."

"As well as extensive CCTV across the whole of Bluewater, our car parks are patrolled and we have security vehicles that provide a further visible presence."

Shakespeare design for Hampton Court

A LANDSCAPING company is to unveil a special garden at the Hampton Court Flower Show to mark the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare.

Hythe Garden Landscapes is working on the garden now for its official unveiling at the Royal Horticulture Society's showpiece event in July.

Shakespeare's 400th anniversary was this Saturday. The garden has been designed by using a wide range of plants from Dungeness.

It takes inspiration from Shakespeare's emotional Sonnet 60, which compares the passage of human life to the onward movement of waves rushing to the seashore.

Designer Mark Whyte said: "We have enabled people to get involved in our garden by offering their own words of wisdom for the generations that follow. Messages can be tweeted to our Twitter account and some will become part of our show garden and displayed on the great wave."

Windsurfer saved in dramatic rescue bid

LIFEBOAT crews had to save the life of a windsurfer after he got into trouble off the Thanet coast on Wednesday.

Coastguards were alerted when people on shore became concerned about a windsurfer who appeared to be struggling in blustery weather conditions off Minnis Bay.

Margate's RNLI inshore lifeboat initially located a windsurfer with the same coloured sail, assumed to be the one concerned.

However the public kept sight of the windsurfer in trouble and could spot him sitting on his board. Life crews found him almost a mile off shore.

He had become exhausted and realising he was in difficulties was attempting to reach an offshore sandbank.

Paul Hodson, Margate lifeboat operations manager, said: "This gentleman owes his life to those ashore who spotted his predicament and persevered in ensuring the lifeboat was able to locate him and ensure his safe return to shore."

Jail term after cops find cannabis factory

A HUSBAND and wife who were involved in a cannabis factor at their home in Thanet have been sentenced.

Mark Handford, 41, of the High Street, Manston, had pleaded guilty to the production of 150 cannabis plants and stealing electricity.

Appearing at Canterbury Crown Court he was sentenced to a four-year jail term.

His wife, Nichola Handford, 41, denied the charges but pleaded guilty to allowing the premises to be used for the production of cannabis, which the court accepted. She was given an eight-month sentence suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work.

Police discovered the drugs when they searched the property on December 1.

PC Paul Marsh said: "The electricity meter in the house had been bypassed so the electrical equipment used to grow the cannabis could be used without being charged for. Electricity costing £662.18 had been used."

Tributes paid to KCC's Keith Ferrin who has died aged 70

By Tom Pyman

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TRIBUTES have been paid to Keith Ferrin, a former deputy leader of Kent County Council, who has died at the age of 70.

The long-serving Conservative was first elected as a councillor when he served on Gillingham Borough Council in 1975.

He was elected to Kent County Council in 1977 and was to become one of its longest serving members.

He was deputy leader from 1997 to 2001 and served as cabinet member for the environment, highways and waste during a career which stretched for 37 years.

KCC leader Paul Carter said: "Keith made a massive contribution to the running of KCC over many years, being the architect and instigator of many significant beneficial changes, particularly after the 1997 election when the Conservatives regained control of the authority, being the deputy leader under Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart's leadership.

"Keith held many key cabinet posts and will be particularly remembered for his work in adult social care and the introduction of direct payments for clients."

Mr Ferrin was born and bred in Leicestershire before attending Leeds University where he met his wife Lynn – a GP whose



RIP: Keith Ferrin was deputy under Sandy Bruce-Lockhart's leadership

surgery is based in Rainham.

He moved to Kent almost 40 years ago after being transferred a week before he was married. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

His interest in politics began at university, where he first became a member of the Conservative Party. Over the years he held many offices in the party, spending eight years as a constituency association chairman.

He was the Kent and Medway Area chairman from 2007 until October 2010 and in

September 2010 he became a member of the Conservative Party's south east region committee.

Over the years he held positions of responsibility in every area covered by KCC except planning.

In 1988, he was awarded the MBE for political and public service in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

A memorial service will take place at St Margaret's Church in Rainham on May 9 and 2pm.

Radio 1 DJ run event pulled for poor sales

A CHARITY run to raise awareness of breast cancer in young people has been cancelled after it failed to sell tickets.

Radio 1 DJ Greg James was due to play a set to participants, as part of a 'silent disco dash' on May 22 at Paddock Wood's Hop Farm.

Runners would have worn headphones and listened to the star while taking part in a 5k or 10k event.

Corner House all set for city expansion

AWARD-winning restaurant The Corner House in Minster is to open a new restaurant in Canterbury in June.

The Corner House Canterbury will be in the site of the Flying Horse pub on Dover Street.

It will provide 50 covers and have three en suite guest rooms upstairs.

Uni site's topping out

WORK on a £26million new building at the University of Kent's Canterbury campus reached a key stage on Thursday as a topping out ceremony took place.

The Parkwood Road building will house students and staff of the Kent Business School and school of mathematics. It is expected to be ready by early 2017.



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Driver jailed for two years for killing popular builder

A 29-year-old man from Bromley has been sentenced to two years in prison for causing the death of a man on the Romney Marsh by careless driving.

Grant Powell (pictured), of Oldstead Road, Bromley, was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court having pleaded guilty to the charge at an earlier hearing.

He was also disqualified from driving for three years and will be required to take an extended driving test.

He was arrested in Newchurch Lane, Newchurch, on April 28 last year. He had driven the Mercedes Sprinter van he was driving for a delivery company, head-on with a Mazda 5 car being driven by 67-year-old Bryn Davies, a building contractor from Speldhurst Close in Ashford.



He took his eyes off the road while using a hands-free phone.

Debbie Davies, one of the victim's daughters, said: "My Dad was a people-magnet, a man that everyone who ever met him loved.

"It is very hard to accept that he has gone because of someone's careless actions. We hope today brings us not only justice but also a little bit of closure. It has been a nightmare of a year."

Cathedral farewell to the victim of Vietnam tragedy

HUNDREDS attended Canterbury Cathedral this week to bid farewell to a former Royal Navy sailor who died in a waterfall tragedy in Vietnam.

The memorial service was in honour of Christian Sloan, 25, from Deal. He, along with two women, died in February after taking a tour at the Datanla waterfalls in Lam Dong province – a popular tourist spot.

The circumstances surrounding the incident are still unclear. Mr Sloan was believed to be water sliding.

A family member told KoS that an investigation was still ongoing.

This week, loved ones paid tribute to the man they knew as 'the Legend' in a service at the cathedral, where more than

500 people were in attendance.

"It was a fantastic service," the family member said.

"The place was nearly full which just showed the popularity of the chap."

Following a cremation at Barham, several hundred friends and family members also attended an event at the Welfare Club, Cowdray Square, Deal, after the cathedral service.

A fundraising page aimed to generate £2,000 in his memory – and that target was comfortably reached just days before the service.

"All monies raised will be shared between charities close to Christian's heart, to enable Christian's caring nature to live on through helping others," his sister, Katie-Leigh Cottrell, confirmed.

Flocking for land lesson

NEARLY 3,000 pupils from 47 of the county's primary schools will be heading to the Kent Showground in Detling on May 5 for a free one-day event aimed at educating young children in farming, the countryside and healthy eating. The Living Land event is not open to the public.

Dog saved from blaze

FIREFIGHTERS rescued a dog from a house fire started by an unattended candle in Shoreham on Thursday night.

Crews were called to Mildmay Place at 7.33pm.

The pet was given oxygen therapy. The house was left severely damaged.

Cobbs Wood plans bid

PLANS have been submitted to redevelop the former Rimmel factory site at Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate in Ashford, creating the prospect of nearly 200 new jobs in the borough. Derelict since 2007 when it was destroyed by fire, plans include a number of warehouse units.

Eurostar for Euro 2016

EUROSTAR has announced a dedicated train for the England versus Wales crunch Euro 2016 game on June 16.

The service will stop at both Ebbsfleet and Ashford before heading to Lille where fans can pick up a connecting service.

Tickets went on sale earlier this week.



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Top Three Stories



1. Missing man's birthday

Family of Brian Smart mark his special day

2. Shop robber took £10k

Richard Campbell jailed for 16 years

3. Nine years for rapist

James Bedingfield dragged victim up stairs

The Essential Guide:



...to the Dartford Crossing

Everything you need to know about congestion and the Dart Charge



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: After his death was announced this week, we looked back at Prince's only ever UK festival performance - which came in front of 30,000 people at Paddock Wood's Hop Farm.

Missed last week's...?

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Top Three Blogs



1. Hard not to shed a tear

Looking back at Prince's musical legacy

2. Time to take a step back?

A look at the ups and downs of gambling

3. Prison reform is brave

Why this is a step in the right direction

Results of the KoS Online Poll

How will you celebrate the Queen's birthday?

- 1 I'm organising a street party - 19%
- 2 I'm attending a street party - 19%
- 3 I'm celebrating in London - 3%
- 4 I don't like the Royal Family - 59%

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MODERN: The Centre Hospitalier de Calais boasts more than 500 beds with the majority in private rooms. Spare capacity means it can slash waiting lists for those in east Kent

Say 'oui' to Calais option, says first NHS patient who cut queue

Tom Pyman speaks to Timothy Brierley, 54, who took advantage of a deal with French health chiefs

THE first British patient to be treated in Calais on the NHS under a pioneering deal between Kent and French health authorities says he would "thoroughly recommend" the experience to others.

Timothy Brierley, a civil servant from Lyminge, near Folkestone, made history last weekend as he travelled across the Channel to undergo a standard gall bladder removal procedure.

The surgery was performed following the signing of a contract in January between the modern new Centre Hospitalier de Calais and the South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) after the hospital made a bid to provide services at the end of last year.

The CCG is responsible for health care in the area.

The hospital currently has spare capacity after being built with a view to Calais' population increasing over the coming years.

The decision, taken to help cut down waiting times for patients at the likes of the William Harvey in Ashford, Kent & Canterbury and QEOM in Margate – which currently stand at several months due to overwhelming demand – was slammed by the trade union, Unison, which described the move as "barking".

However, Mr Brierley, 54, said the experience was "completely stress-free" and encouraged others to follow suit.

He told KoS: "I was in hospital at the William Harvey in September, and after six days I was discharged

and told I'd need a minor procedure to have gall stones removed.

"But there was an 18-week waiting list to have it done.

"I heard nothing and chased the hospital who then told me there would be no prospect of having the surgery before July."

Mr Brierley's French-speaking wife, Kelly, had heard about the deal with Calais and so the couple began to explore the possibility.

His local GP had not heard of the scheme, but referred him to the CCG, who in turn gave him a date to go over to Calais and discuss options, which he did on March 17.

"It was all set up nicely for me," the father-of-three said as he arrived at the French hospital.

"Someone met me in the reception straight away and took me up to see the surgeon, who told me there and then he could do any subsequent Monday or Friday.

"I was on leave from work for two weeks so that was ideal, really.

"It was probably no more than five weeks from when I was first referred to actually having the operation – and in France they say that's a long time, so I anticipate it will actually get even quicker."

Under these plans, the NHS will pay for treatment but patients will pay for their own travel costs.

After a 10 minute trip to the tunnel, 35 minutes across the Channel and then another 10 minutes from arriving in France to the hospital, his journey from front doorstep to the reception barely lasted an hour.

Mr Brierley admitted it most likely would have taken him longer to travel to London.

When he went over for the day in March, a cheap return on P&O cost just £29, though when he travelled for surgery last week it cost closer to £100.

The process appears cheap and convenient, but Mr Brierley emphatically stated that it didn't mean there was a compromise made on the quality of care provided.

"I'd say the facilities there were comparable to private treatment in the UK," he said. "The place was spotless and the staff were excellent.

"I got my own room, complete with a fridge and a bathroom, as well as access to television and internet.

"My wife was also able to stay for just €8 a night.

"I'm lucky because both of us speak a bit of French but for others there wouldn't be a language barrier at all.

"I think all of the staff are well-trained in English too because they all seemed willing to make the effort.

"The whole experience was completely stress-free.

"I was more than happy to be their guinea pig and I'd thoroughly recommend others do the same."

French businessman, Thaddée Segard, who lives in the port town, attended a CCG meeting in Dover with two Calais surgeons prior to Mr Brierley's arrival, to iron out details for the developing trend of patients being treated in France.

"The spirit is as high as ever and we are setting a pace for a cross border



DELIGHTED: Timothy Brierley

relationship that will last not two months, not even for two years, but for 10 years on," he said.

"Everyone is in full agreement, this an extremely innovative and well thought programme which is meant to help the NHS to reduce their waiting time for the benefit of the patients.

"We have all the good reasons to work together on that field, just like any other potential fields such as cross-border housing."

The relationship between Kent and France appears to be a booming one, with Medway CCG announcing last week that it was considering drafting in doctors and nurses from Calais to help ease crippling demand in the district and beyond.

However, a spokesperson insisted discussions were at a preliminary stage, no decisions had been defini-

tively made, and that the use of clinical staff from across the Channel was only one of a number of options currently being discussed.

Labour councillor Mike Eddy, who sits on Kent County Council's health overview and scrutiny committee backed the move, insisting "getting doctors and nurses from anywhere is a good idea", while Unison spokesperson Simon Bolton again referred to the idea as "a gimmick".

The problems regarding demand in Medway will surely have only been exacerbated by the closure of the oldest hospital in England, St Bartholomew's, which was announced earlier this year.

The Rochester hospital, known to many as Barts, was founded in 1078 for the care of the poor and lepers and survived as a charity until it was taken over with the founding of the NHS.

But Medway CCG, which commissions services at the hospital, revealed in February that the building on New Road is no longer fit for purpose and that services are to be moved elsewhere.

It did, however, alleviate fears that the closure will mean cuts and the movement of services outside of Medway, and insisted "our intention is to improve the quality of service provided and to ensure a better patient experience".

■ Would you be happy to have treatment in Calais? Share your views and join the debate. Email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP.

Jail awaits as gun gang found guilty at Old Bailey

By Emily Pennink

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CRIME boss has been told he could be facing a life sentence for smuggling more than £100,000 worth of Eastern European guns into the UK sourced from the same place as weapons used in the Charlie Hebdo terror attack.

Harry Shilling bragged "we now officially gangsters" after his stash of 22 assault rifles and nine Skorpion sub-machine guns sailed up the River Medway from Boulogne in France.

The 23-year-old, along with Michael Defraime, 30, was found guilty of gun smuggling and possessing firearms with intent to endanger life following a trial held at the Old Bailey amid almost unprecedented security.

He will be sentenced along with the rest of the gang, skipper David Payne, 43, Richard Rye, 24, and Christopher Owen, 30, who had already pleaded guilty.

John Smale, 58, and Payne's partner Jennifer Arthy, 42, were cleared of the charges they faced.

Judge Michael Topolski QC said he will give "serious consideration" for a life sentence for Shilling. The gang will be sentenced at a later date.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) hailed it as the biggest seizure of these deadly guns on British soil.

Although the gang had no connection with terrorism, the source and route of the weapons was the same as those used in the Charlie Hebdo atrocity in Paris just over six months before, the NCA said.

The Albemina arrived with the "evil" cargo near Cuxton Marina, outside Rochester, on August 10 last year.

But the NCA had the plotters under surveillance and swooped to seize the deadly cache before it could be buried and then passed into the wrong hands.

Prosecutor Duncan Atkinson QC said Shilling masterminded the plan and paid for the guns, with help from his man on the continent, Defraime, and "loyal lieutenant" and "go-between" Rye.

Skipper Payne brought the guns into the country on board the Albemina.

Shilling also exchanged messages with a mystery contact "B" to arrange the onward supply of the guns.

On August 11, Shilling, Defraime and Rye were arrested after visiting

DIY store Homebase to buy bags and tools to bury the guns until they were needed.

In his defence, Shilling said his long-time friend Rye was the real "puppet master" and he only worked for him collecting and dealing in cannabis.

Shilling gave his occupation as a breeder of dogs and game birds. He also had an emu as a family pet - which had been "arrested" in the past.

He denied that an encrypted BlackBerry phone with the incriminating messages on it was his.

The prosecution suggested that because Shilling was the boss, the name "Kaiser" on the mobile was a reference to the film character Keyser Soze in *The Usual Suspects*.

Like the film character, they said, Shilling acted the fool but was really the mastermind.

But Shilling said Kaiser was in fact the name of Rye's dog, backing up his claim that the phone was not his.

He said he went to Romania to buy a Caucasian shepherd puppy called "Misty" and the trip had nothing to do with setting up a guns deal.

In turn, Defraime, nicknamed Daffy, denied being Shilling's man on the continent.

He told jurors he worked for Rye buying and selling cars and had planned to set up a new motor dealership in Belgium.

Shilling, from Swanley; Defraime, from Bexleyheath; Smale, from Rochester; and Arthy, who lived with Payne on a houseboat in Cuxton, denied the charges.

Rye, Payne and Owen had pleaded guilty to their part in the smuggling conspiracy. Payne and Rye, from Swanley, also admitted conspiracy to supply firearms that would be used by others to endanger life.

Following the convictions, Rob Lewin, NCA head of specialist operations, said: "This seizure of automatic weapons was the largest ever made by the NCA - and, we believe, the largest ever on the UK mainland.

"These are hugely powerful firearms, and have, as the prosecution stated in court, a 'truly devastating capability'.

"We cannot say for certain what the organised crime group would have done with the weapons had they not been stopped.

"But the evidence pointed to them not being afraid to use guns themselves to expand their influence. They wanted to move up in the criminal world from regional to international gangsters."



JUSTICE: The court case was heard at the Old Bailey. Two were acquitted of the charges they faced

DID USUAL SUSPECTS MOVIE INFLUENCE CROOKS?

THE *Usual Suspects*' Keyser Soze wannabe spun a shaggy dog tale in the witness box in the form of a cute Caucasian shepherd puppy called Misty.

Harry Shilling also tried to brazen out his involvement in Britain's biggest gun-trafficking bust with an anecdote about his pet emu getting "arrested" for running amok.

But, according to the prosecution, like Kevin Spacey's film character, Shilling only acted the fool while pulling the strings of his friend Richard Rye as a "dosser", collecting and dealing cannabis for him.

Shilling was at the heart of the all-too-serious gun smuggling trial, which called for the highest level of security at the Old Bailey.

The jury was kept in the dark about special measures put in place to station armed officers inside and outside the historic building, with the courtroom on lockdown as each defendant gave evidence.

In his defence, Shilling, 23, told jurors that he bred dogs and game birds, as well as working for his friend Richard Rye as a "dosser", collecting and dealing cannabis for him.

He said Rye, 24, had given him one of his "dirty" phones to use in the drugs business, but not the one which contained incriminating emails about the gun smuggling deal.

The court heard that two encrypted BlackBerry phones had to be taken to Canada to be cracked by the Mounties, revealing Shilling's message to Michael Defraime saying: "We now officially gangsters."

But Shilling said he never used it and his DNA must have rubbed off when he put it back together for his friend after he dropped it.

On his trip to Romania in June 2015, two months before the guns arrived, Shilling said he went there to purchase a Caucasian shepherd puppy called Misty.

The prosecution suggested that Shilling had "Kaiser" in his phone as he was like the character Keyser Soze in *The Usual Suspects*, pretending to be stupid when he was really the mastermind.

But Shilling refuted this, saying Rye, who had pleaded guilty, was the real boss, and had a dog called Kaiser, so the phone must be his.

Michael Defraime, aka Daffy, 30, was Shilling's fixer on the Continent, helping to set up the gun deal and transportation to Boulogne during nine trips in the two months before his arrest.

He denied it, saying he only dealt in cars and was trying to set up a new motor business in Belgium at the time.

One of the trips had included a family outing to see sand sculp-

tures inspired by Disney film *Frozen*, but it rained and his children started to cry, so they headed home early, he said.

He said Rye had paid him to pass on one of the BlackBerry phones to a blond man called Henry in Ostend - not unlike a man seen at Boulogne harbour.

As skipper David Payne's best friend, John Smale, 58, asked no questions when he did jobs for him on the Albemina cruiser.

He was portrayed as a "simple man" who led a life of hard work, preferably with a can of Strongbow cider in hand.

Payne's girlfriend Jennifer Arthy, 42, also said she did not pry into her partner's business dealings, in a show of faith after he had an affair two years before.

Despite three men admitting the sophisticated and well-planned gun-smuggling scheme, and cutting-edge techniques deployed by National Crime Agency investigators, they denied involvement.

While Shilling and Defraime were found guilty, the jury accepted Arthy and Smale's defence.

Rob Lewin, NCA head of specialist operations, said: "I have no doubt that in bringing these criminals to justice, together we have protected the public and saved lives."



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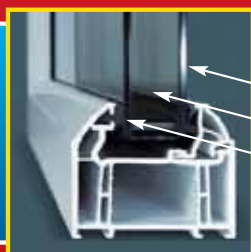
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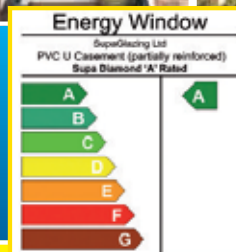
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CROWDS: It is one of the colourful spectacles in the sporting world

Marathon day dawns as big race returns

Charities look set to cash-in as runners take to the streets of London for the 26.2 mile course.

Chris Britcher highlights some local athletes...

FOR some it is the ultimate test of endurance; others a platform to catapult themselves into the reckoning of Olympic teams ahead of this summer's Rio Games.

But the one thing everyone can agree on is that today's London Marathon is one of the most inspiring spectacles on the sporting calendar.

Just under 40,000 people will pound the streets of the capital today – many hundred from Kent – with thousands cheering the runners on around the 26.2 mile course.

Southeastern will be running extra services throughout Sunday morning to take Kent competitors and spectators up to the start line in Blackheath.

It is expected that, in total, some £25 million will be raised by runners competing for charity. For many charitable organisations, it has become one of their most valuable days.

Among those pulling on their trainers is Hildenborough's double gold medal-winning Olympic hero Kelly Holmes.

She will be raising money for five charities – among them Tunbridge Wells-based

the Pickering Trust, which offers support for those suffering from cancer, and Pembury-based Hospice in the Weald which cared for her former coach, Dave Arnold, who died two years to the day after she won her 1,500m gold at Athens.

She said: "For a long-time retired, middle distance runner, 26.2 miles is a very long way.

"I have had to completely change my mindset to train for such a long distance but it's a challenge that I am now up for, especially as for me it will all be about raising lots of money for charity. It's the most amazing event, the atmosphere is incredible and now I can't wait until race day."

She will be among many raising money from Kent in the gruelling race.

Among them, Ian Arnell, 41, of Minster-on-Sea. He will be raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK – part of a 200 strong Men United team to raise awareness of the illness and fund research into a cure and treatment. He was inspired to raise money after his father was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer in 2006.

He explains: "Ignoring prostate cancer won't beat it, so I joined the fight by signing up to run the London Marathon. I decided to run for Prostate Cancer UK because I feel very passionately about the cause, and I am also a volunteer for the charity."

Director of fundraising James Beeby at the charity, said: "One man every hour dies from

Continued on page 16



Playing your part on the day

WITH thousands expected to turn out to support those running in the race, here is all the spectator information you need:

Tracking runners

Marathon organisers will have a live tracking page on the homepage of virginmoneylondonmarathon.com.

Visitors can follow runners as they make their way around the course, with updates appearing as they cross the timing points (5km intervals). See our map in the centre pages.

Making your way around

On race day, all surrounding roads will be closed. Underground, Overground and DLR services will be laying on extra trains.

The Northern Line will be closed between Archway and High Barnet. Until 10.15am there will be no trains between Liverpool Street and Enfield Town/Cheshunt (via Seven Sisters).

The Chingford/Gospel Oak to Barking line will be closed all day on both the Saturday and Sunday.

MBNA Thames Clippers River Bus services will run from key piers in central London every 20 minutes. Overground stations on or close to the marathon route include Surrey Quays, Canada Water, Wapping and Shadwell. The mass race will begin at 10am from Blackheath and Greenwich Park, but it is not recommended spectators accompany their runners to the start.

Busy areas

Organisers are advising spectators to avoid Greenwich town centre and the Cutty Sark, while other busy areas will include



GEAR: Star Wars theme from 2005

Tower Bridge and anywhere from mile 24 to the finish in The Mall.

Miles 15 and 18

The route has been changed here, due to building works in Canary Wharf. Organisers have announced the usual viewing spot at Heron Quays roundabout will not be available and spectators will need to make other arrangements.

Meeting up with runners afterwards

The meet and greet area will be in Horse Guards Road and Horse

Guards Parade. Crossing points will be marked, but very busy.

Meeting points will be marked with letters of the alphabet, so family and friends can go to the correct surname initial, or other agreed letter.

Members of the public are asked not to wait at the exit of the secure area at the top of Horse Guards Road.

Once runners have finished, it will take them between 15 and 40 minutes to arrive at the meet and greet area.

SNACKS: Scooby-Doo in 2008



ODD: A telephone in 2008 and a chick from the 2010 race

Kent on Sunday wishes all runners from across the county the very best of luck...



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Continued from page 14

prostate cancer; it's the most common cancer in men, but we want to make prostate cancer a disease that the next generation of men do not fear. We thank Ian for joining the fight and wish them every success in the marathon."

Bobbing-based children's hospice Demelza will have some 30 runners raising funds in its honour.

Among the 33 runners taking part is Stephen Smith from Dartford (pictured on p14) who also ran the Brighton Marathon just last weekend.

Also taking part is Catherine Shearer, a house mistress and teacher at Kings School in Canterbury. Her house has long supported the charity.

She explained: "It was my decision to support Demelza when I first took over Broughton House for a few reasons. Firstly I used to read a column in the local newspaper by a young lady called Nicole who promoted Demelza and highlighted what a special charity it is.

"I was fortunate to visit an open evening with a couple of my students and this was reinforced. The girls were inspired by the visit too and it was evident that every penny raised went into something beneficial. Since then, we have developed this relationship and would like to continue to do so."

Darren Tuff, 45, from Herne Bay, will be running for deaf charity Hi Kent – his wife is the charity's east Kent volunteer co-ordinator.

He said: "I am looking forward to it. The charity does such a lot of good for people in east Kent and all over the county and needs all the support it can get to keep its valuable services running."

Michelle Foreman, 39, from Westgate-On-Sea, will be running in memory of her cousin Kerry who died after having



READY: Left Darren Tuff, right, Ian Arnell, and above, Catherine Shearer.

an asthma attack. She is aiming to raise up to £1,800 for Asthma UK which funds research to find better treatments and ultimately a cure for asthma.

She said: "I lost Kerry when she was just 24. She was a wonderful mother to her two-year-old son and a nine-week-old baby. It's just so tragic. I'm also running to say a massive thank you to my son's asthma nurse, Lyndsey Berry, who has always been there for me.

"The London Marathon is one of the greatest events in the world. I am passionate about making people aware of the seriousness of asthma, and want to run to help create better knowledge and understanding of the condition."

The charity is hoping to bank more than £500,000 through its team of 300 runners.

Lewis Maitland, 54, from Tenterden will be raising money for the NSPCC. He's no stranger to the course.

The IT director explained: "I have run the marathon a couple of times before and said I would never run another after the last one. However, I decided to apply through the ballot not thinking I would get in and surprise surprise I did. I have supported the NSPCC for many years through donations and thought if I am going to put myself through the pain again, let's do it for a fantastic cause."

More than 250,000 people applied to run this year's race –

with just over 53,000 runners being accepted. It is estimated around 38,000 will actually take part.

Certainly for Ray Johnson from Folkestone, the application process is no mystery.

He is going to be competing in his 16th consecutive London Marathon, raising funds for the Kent Association for the Blind.

He explained: "Last year I raised £4,432 which has now resulted in a total amount of £60,660 being raised to date."

Kent on Sunday wishes all runners from across the county the very best of luck.

For details on Southeastern's additional services visit its website www.southeasternrailway.co.uk.

Coverage of the London Marathon is live on BBC One from 8.30am and continues throughout the day.

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MAY 5 will bring the curtain down on Ann Barnes' tenure as Kent's first police and crime commissioner, and see the polling stations open for us to choose her successor.

But if there is ever an election which has failed to engage with the general public it is surely this.

A blend of confusion as to what the role entails, mystery as to the candidates, and apathy as to the result makes the PCC poll one where simply getting people to engage with the process, let alone actually vote for you, is perhaps the biggest challenge.

Yet the role being appointed is a significant one and if there is a low turn out again, the chances are your vote will carry even more clout than normal.

There are local elections in both Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells which will swell the size of those voting there - but elsewhere, those voting will be heading

out specifically to put a cross on the PCC ballot paper.

In a special section, over the coming few pages we hope to fill in the blanks for you over this upcoming election.

We take a look at all the candidates standing to paint a picture of just what they represent and why they're standing for the £85,000 a year position.

In addition, we look at what the role involves and just who is most likely to be crowned the winner in 2016.

Interestingly, the next election will be in 2020 - with the polls for Kent's next PCC being decided on the same day as the general election. And that is likely to mean a huge turnout and the chances of a far more politically motivated result.

For now, though, if you've ever tutted or cheered Ann Barnes' time in office, this is your chance to determine who replaces her.

Don't miss the opportunity.



Young Tory keeps it in the family

Many will see **Matthew Scott** as the man to beat in May's election as the Conservative candidate in true blue Kent. But at 31 does he pack the experience necessary to convince the county's electorate?

ON PAPER, at least, you would assume that Matthew Scott is going to be our next police crime and commissioner.

He is, after all, the Conservative candidate in a county painted with a broad blue brush. But if there is one thing we have learned over recent years, it is never to presume.

Just ask Craig Mackinlay. As the Tory candidate in the original 2012 election, he seemed the man to beat. But Ann Barnes swept to victory in every Kent constituency and claimed the crown on an independent ticket.

This time around, though, things are different and with so little known about the candidates, the chances are those who turn out to vote will do so along party political grounds.

And that means the county will most likely see a straight shoot-out between the Tories and Ukip; if the most recent spate of election results are anything to go by. While the role needs to not dance to a political party's tune, voters do so often like to make a point on national issues when we get the chance to go to the polls.

Matthew Scott is an interesting proposition though. At just 31, his stumbling block - or big advantage - will no doubt be his age. But he has policing in his blood and is confident he has the skill set necessary to succeed in the role.

"I applied because I believe in the role," he told KoS this week during another day of touring the county trying to whip up interest in the election and support behind his campaign. "I think it's positive, despite all that has happened, I think it can deliver a lot of good. Coming from a policing family I'm someone who has an understanding of the police and the challenges they face.

"My father was a chief inspector in the Met Police and my brother is a serving sergeant. So it was a political ambition of mine to be involved."

After studying public policy at the University of Birmingham, he went on to work in the office of Bexleyheath and Crayford MP David Evennett. He moved up through the ranks and was his office manager - responsible for the smooth running of the team and ensuring the MP was fully briefed on all issues passing across his desk, as well as handling the budgets and HR issues. He left in March to concentrate fully on the upcoming election.

Nor is he a stranger to the election trail - having stood for the Tories in the Leyton and Wanstead constituency in last May's general election. A safe Labour seat, his efforts were doomed to failure, holding the Tory vote reasonably steady and comfortably in second place.

The big question, though, is how a 31-year-old office manager for an MP will make the leap to becoming such an important vital public figure.

"I wouldn't have gone for it if I wasn't up for the role," he says. "I appreciate there is a substantial budget and there are real challenges here within policing. The important distinction I would make and I think it's incumbent on all candidates to make clear, is that yes, we set the budget, we set the council tax precept we decide priorities with the public, but operational policing remains entirely within the remit of the chief constable. And I think 98 per cent of the budget is devolved to him.

"We need to get away from this view the PCC runs the police - they don't, they hold the police to account.

"When you frame it that way, people who have experience of being a public advocate and experience of



holding public figures to account, they do have the experience and training necessary.

"I believe in the role and don't think

age should ever be a barrier to people stopping putting themselves forward.

"I think I have as much, if not more, experience as the other candidates.

"Outside and inside of my job, I've done a lot of case work for victims of crime, survivors of abuse, and also holding public officials to account.

"I have packed a lot into my 31 years. I have full respect for my family and what they have done. My father was responsible for police operations at a particular London football club that I won't name, but you sometimes wondered if he was going to come home afterwards.

"But I don't think politics and being a police officer is really compatible which is why it wasn't for me."

Nor is he too savage when it comes to Ann Barnes, who will be stepping to one side in May after a single term in office, and who his Tory colleagues elsewhere in the county have been relentless in attacking.

"I don't think there was any spite or malice in her mistakes," he says of the infamous Channel 4 documentary or the youth commissioner experiment.

"She was just trying to do different things and better promote the role. I probably wouldn't have done things in the same way. I won't be doing any documentaries for example. But I will be getting rid of Ann Force One - I certainly don't need a minibus with my name splashed across it. There's a saving right there.

"But she is to be commended for trying to engage with younger people. I don't think she quite got it right with the youth commissioner role, though. We have a youth council, youth parliament - a diverse set already active and that's what I'd do different - to work with them, with existing methods."

So does he believe this election is his for the taking?

"I'm positive but not complacent."

Clearly working for a politician for all those years has rubbed off on him.

So what is a police and crime commissioner?

Introduced by the Tories in 2012, the role has often been questioned, but it does play an essential role in holding our police force to account

ANN Barnes may not have covered the role in glory, but perversely she may have single-handedly done more to raise the profile of the office of police and crime commissioner than anyone since its inception.

Her PR gaffes may have cast a shadow over her term in office, but she did at least command the public profile which it was always hoped the office would deliver.

And if you stripped those misjudgements away, she actually did a very good job. She fought tooth and nail for more funding and publicly shamed Whitehall for backtracking on an apparent promise to help foot the police bill incurred by Operation Stack last summer. A cost which otherwise falls to us – the Kent taxpayer.

But despite the fact we all know



Ann Barnes today, ask many people what the PCC actually does and there are lots of quizzical looks.

Let us be clear, the PCC does not decide what police power is deployed where or when. The op-

erational side of the force remains fully in the hands of the chief constable – the county's most senior police officer.

The PCC is there to hold the chief constable to account. To ensure they are delivering the po-

lice and crime plan and if not to demand why not.

Ultimately, they can fire, and indeed hire, the chief constable.

The PCC also handles the budget, can dictate the council tax precept (in other words, how much we pay on our annual bill for policing) and acts as the public-facing middle man between the public and the officers.

The PCC is overseen by the Kent and Medway crime panel – a cross-party committee which holds the PCC themselves to account. Those in office must also sign an oath vowing to work politically impartially.

The role comes with an £85,000 salary and is elected every four years. The first elections took place in November 2012 with a poor 16 per cent turnout. Next month's election is on May 5.

...AND WHO WILL WIN?

SO JUST who will win the election in May to be only our second police and crime commissioner?

The one certainty is it won't be Ann Barnes, who declared she will not challenge for a second term. And that leaves the field wide open.

Because there was such a poor turnout last time around (Kent's 16 per cent was actually better than the national average of 15 per cent) the winner will be the candidate who can actually get their supporters into the polling booths – thus meaning while a Tory or Ukip two-horse race is likely, the other candidates are all in with a shout; especially those such as independent candidate Gurvinder Sandher, who not only is riding an independent ticket (which will appeal to

those disillusioned with Westminster politics) but also packs arguably the most compelling CV when it comes to hands-on experience. His lack of profile, however, seems unlikely to sweep him to victory.

With an apathetic electorate, an EU referendum debate splitting the Tories and Labour under a Marmite new leader, there are a whole host of ways this election could swing.

But the smart money, based on the county's recent voting patterns? It seems almost certain to be a Tory or Ukip winner. But one thing can change that, of course. You. Read these profiles, make a decision, and make sure you go out and vote on May 5. It is an increasingly important role and we should all have a say in who it will be.



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Using international security on home soil

Ukip's **Henry Bolton** wants to bring his wealth of military experience across Europe to make us safer here in Kent

WITH a CV practically bursting at the seams, Mr Bolton believes his wealth of experience in co-ordinating operations for the police and military makes him an ideal candidate to hold Kent Police to account. Married with two children, and a third due in the summer, Ukip's representative has worked across the northern hemisphere in a number of different roles.

From working as the head of international police in Croatia, to governing the United Nations, to offering recommendations to the White House in dealing with weapons of mass destruction, Mr Bolton's list of feats is certainly comprehensive.

He also received an OBE in 2013 for services to international security.

What may raise the eyebrows of some voters, however, is his apparent lack of Kentish roots.

The 53-year-old has only lived in

Folkestone since 2011 having grown up in Berkshire before travelling across Europe and beyond.

From the age of four he used to enjoy visiting his great uncle in the harbour town, but some may argue he does not have the same connection with the county that his opposite numbers may boast.

However, he believes his diverse background and understanding of security issues will give him the edge over his opponents.

"Working in the military is orientated towards public and national security in its entirety," he told KoS.

"I was looking at people smuggling in Macedonia and it's the same routes being used to try and get into the UK through Kent.

"We're facing the same issues that I've tackled in Europe and so I want to use my skills and experience to protect Kent in the same way.

"I don't think it's about strengthening the borders - I got my OBE by

bringing groups and organisations together to work more efficiently and I want to replicate that in this role."

However, perhaps as the 2012 turnout will testify, Mr Bolton admitted that he's not sure if the public fully understand the intricacies and arguable limitations of the £85,000-a-year position.

Given relentless cuts to the police budget over recent years, the role of the commissioner is made that little bit harder, but Mr Bolton insists that it doesn't put him off, but rather the complete opposite.

"I don't like to look at things like these as problems, I prefer to see them as challenges," he said.

"The cuts make providing public security all the more difficult but I've got ideas in my manifesto to help combat that."

One of Mr Bolton's key policies to help maintain a physical police presence is the introduction of what he calls parish constables.



These will be part-time volunteer members of Kent's Special Constabulary who give their time to support the communities from which they are recruited.

As well as using police powers, they will communicate the concerns of the community to their chain of command, will be a local point of contact for the community, will record

local crimes and make themselves available for parish and community meetings.

"It's all about confidence, and having these guys on the ground helps protect us from the fear of harm as well as harm itself.

"The public fundamentally feel more safe when they see uniformed officers on the streets."

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Independent 'critical friend' in tech push

North Kent's **Gurvinder Sandher** will be looking to follow in Ann Barnes' footsteps by winning without political backing

THIS year's sole independent candidate for the role will be hoping the public still believes party politics should be kept out of the police, as they did when Ann Barnes claimed victory on an independent ticket in 2012.

Married father-of-two Gurvinder Sandher says it would be "a dream" to emulate the success of Mrs Barnes' election campaign three-and-a-half years ago, but is well aware of the challenge that lies ahead.

"It's extremely difficult for an independent candidate to run in this election," he told KoS.

"I declared quite late in the day because it was a real struggle to get the £5,000 needed to stand together, which I had to raise all by myself.

"I'm not independently wealthy and can't really afford to lose that kind of money.

"I'm not sure how many people truly understand the role, or if we'll

even get a stronger turnout than we did last time.

"The whole system is stacked against me, I'm just trying to run a positive campaign and I just have to hope enough people come out in support because that's where it will stand or fall."

Mr Sandher, 42, who was born in Gravesend and lives in Dartford, has worked in a number of community roles across the county – he says only ever leaving for three years to go to university in Coventry.

As the current county chair of the Kent Police Independent Advisory Group and vice chair of the Kent Police and Crime Panel, he is in regular contact with the force, and believes it is that knowledge and experience that stands him in good stead when voters take to the polling stations on May 5.

"I'm in and out of police headquarters two or three times a week, I've seen at close quarters the work that

goes on, and I like to think of myself as a critical friend, and that's what I can bring to this role.

"As well as a good working relationship, I'm able to point out where we can make improvements.

"I'm not just doing this on a whim, I've been working closely with them for a number of years and firmly believe it should be non-political, and serving the people of Kent, not those in Westminster."

A keen Everton fan, what Mr Sandher really hopes to bring to the role is an increase in the use of technology on the frontline.

"I want to see things like body-worn cameras and tablets used more and more," he said.

"We need to use that in a smarter and more efficient way, so I'll look at how our officers are being trained, because I don't want them stuck in the office doing paperwork."

Mr Sandher also revealed he wants to introduce a wider volunteer police



cadets scheme, to maintain that physical presence on the street that the public seem to hold so dear.

"It's about everyone working together to serve the different communities of Kent and ensuring they have the necessary support available from voluntary sector partners.

"My passion is serving the community, that's what I've done all

my life, and I want to be their voice to make sure concerns are really listened to.

"I would like to promote the role more so people have a real understanding of it, but the priority is to represent these communities.

"At the absolute heart of my campaign is a culture of getting things done and putting the needs of the residents first."

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Labour says diversity is still the spice of life

Tristan Osborne has worked as a councillor and as a special constable and will make sure Kent is heard in Westminster

A COUNCILLOR for the Labour group on Medway Council since 2011, Mr Osborne hopes his blend of experience will catapult him into office.

The second-youngest man running for the role at 33, he grew up in Rochester before working as a special constable for the Metropolitan Police.

He then moved back to Rochester to move into politics, and he believes it is that combination of frontline police and political experience that makes him ideal for the role.

"I think it's important that someone has a background in both those areas," he told KoS.

"If you've been there and seen it first-hand, actually arrested people and taken away their liberty, you get a real feel for the work that the police do and know how operations work.

"I wasn't a sergeant or inspector but I've gained enough of an understanding over the years as a special

constable to fully appreciate it.

"You can have all the passion you like, but I don't think you can perform this role effectively to good enough standard without that kind of experience."

Mr Osborne says representing a deprived ward on the council which suffers a significant amount of anti-social behaviour only adds to that understanding, as does his ability to scrutinise the work of police having worked on a number of local authority committees.

The election's only openly gay candidate, he said: "I'm a big believer in diversity – which I know some of the other candidates aren't – and I will be really looking to promote that.

"I'm pro-Europe and think voting to remain in makes us stronger and we've got a lot of crucial partnerships with other countries on the continent I want to continue working with."

One of his primary policies will be working on victim support – some-

thing which the current incumbent, Ann Barnes, has been praised for, despite plenty of PR disasters during her three-and-a-half year tenure.

"It's about community engagement," he said, "and I'm a big supporter of the work Mrs Barnes has done in that area, for sure.

"I'm keen to work with as many groups of people as possible, including a number of charities, to make sure our victim services are the best they can be.

"But we need less gimmicks and more operational decisions, more strategic partnerships, and making sure that communities are really listened to.

"Mrs Barnes wasn't really able to utilise a network across parliament and the House of Lords in the same way I intend to.

"I want to be a voice speaking up for our area in Kent in Westminster and in the south east, so we can help make the county a more tolerant and



safer place to live, work and play."

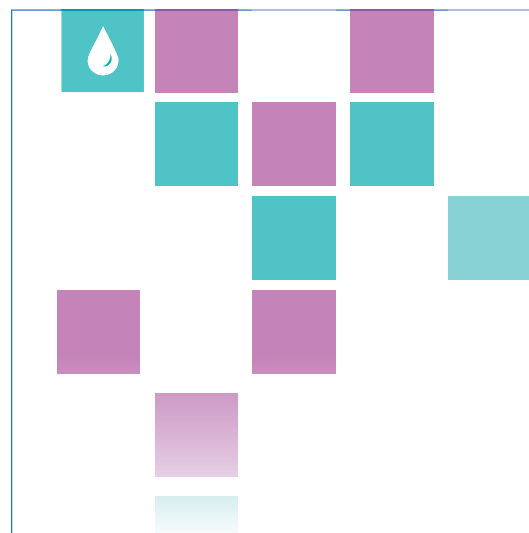
As well as recognising the fondness with which the public hold bobbies on the beat – and he wants to introduce more special constables to help with that – Mr Osborne also insists that greater emphasis on back office support will be at the heart of his campaign.

It comes after Ian Pointon, chair-

man of Kent Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, said he believed increased focus needed to be placed on tackling cyber crime.

"A lot of cyber crime these days is cross-border with people trying to access information from abroad," Mr Osborne said.

"I'll make sure we reinforce the protection of our data."



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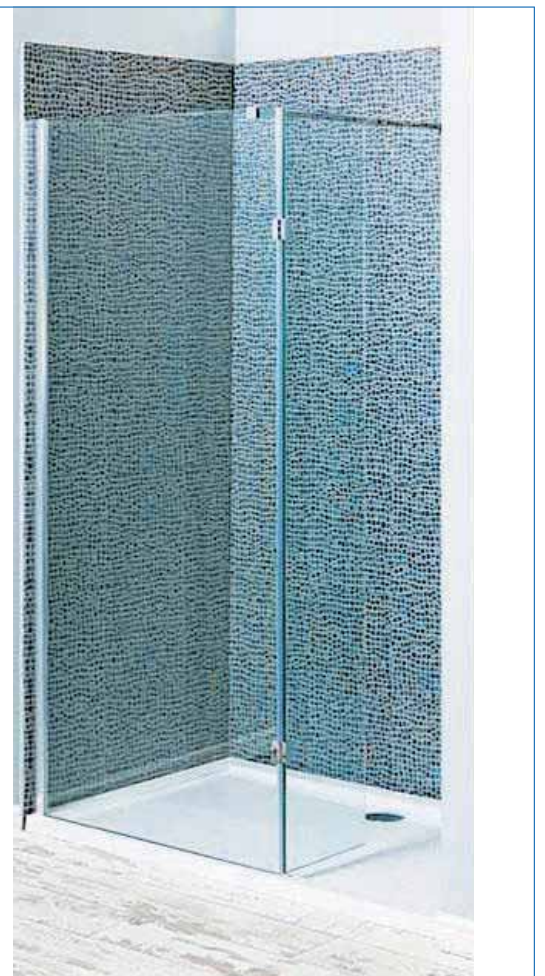
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Supporting victims as community voice

Lib Dem councillor **Dave Naghi** is relying on five decades of Kentish knowledge to help launch him to unlikely victory

THE oldest candidate in the running at 58 years old, Mr Naghi is also arguably the most eccentric.

A divorced father-of-three, he claims to have a wealth of local knowledge and "life experience" that he hopes will be the springboard to an unlikely challenge for the prestigious role.

After moving to the county aged three, he has lived in mid-Kent ever since, working for himself as a builder for some 37 years, before venturing into politics, and becoming a Liberal Democrat representative on Maidstone council and standing as candidate in the Faversham and Mid Kent general election.

As well as undertaking chairman and management roles for a number of charities, he is also part of the organising group for the World Custard Pie-throwing Championships held every year in Maidstone.

The range of work he has done in his councillor role, however, is what he believes makes him the right man for the job.

"I have got a good, broad experience of everything that the police have to deal with," he told KoS.

"I have not been in the army but the police is not a military-based role.

"I have dealt with the police on all levels as a councillor and for people in my ward I often ring the police on

their behalf. People know me and they know that I will do a good job – I'm not just here to tick boxes."

Fully aware of the limitations of the role, Mr Naghi embraces the opportunity to represent his public rather than enforcing new laws

"It's the role of the commissioner to be the champion of the community and I certainly believe that's what I am and what I'm good at.

"It's the chief constable's job to be in charge of the law – I have always been independent of the police because I have not worked with them or advised them.

"What I bring to the table is my pure passion and knowledge of Kent communities, and that's what I think really matters to people and, ultimately, that's what the role is."

With the public clamouring for more bobbies on the beat in the face of growing police cuts, Mr Naghi says he wants to help solve the problem by giving Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) more powers and responsibilities.

"These guys are rapidly becoming the frontline and so I want to make sure they are given the necessary powers, including the ability to make an arrest, it's as simple as that.

"I think previously young people didn't respect PCSOs and that has got to change because when an officer in uniform turns up, you need to listen

and show them that respect.

"If they don't do that then there will be consequences.

"It's so important to have that presence on the street but it's difficult because nobody wants to volunteer."

He also insisted he wanted officers to work in pairs, so that there was never a situation where one was left patrolling the streets alone.

Mr Naghi was critical of Ann Barnes' tenure, insisting that a poor grasp of public relations meant voters were largely left unaware of the work she had done for the county.

"She never informed us," he said.

"She could have been the best commissioner in the world but how do we know that if she won't engage? I don't think she had the right credentials for the job from the start."

He did, however, praise Mrs Barnes' continued efforts to help support victims of crime, and insisted that picking up that particular mantle is something that is at the heart of his campaign to step into her shoes.

"I want to make sure that victims are given the best possible support, and I know that Mrs Barnes did a lot of good work in providing that.

"However, there are always ways you can improve and so I'll look into the full ins and outs of what she's done and see how we can make it even better.



"I'm not an expert on this kind of thing, and this whole process is a learning curve, but these people need to know that they will be looked after and I'm confident I can do a good job in making sure they are."

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'Armed officers required'

Steve Uncles of the English Democrats wants to see borders strengthened

AFTER being born in Blackheath and brought up in Bexley, Mr Uncles, 52, has lived in Dartford for some 26 years.

Having worked in project management for a number of government departments, including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence and Department of Health, he then got involved in politics in 2003.

He represents the English Democrats which he says is the equivalent to the Scottish National Party north of the border.

After standing in the 2012 elections, gaining 10,000 votes, the married father-of-two says he started his campaign earlier this time around.

He claims his connection with the police was best recognised in 2014 when he was commended by



both the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and the Association of Chief Police Officers for Bravery in tackling an armed robber in July 2013 near London Bridge station.

At the heart of his manifesto, he says, is strengthening Kent's borders, and ensuring people have someone in authority to represent their views.

He told KoS: "Illegal immigrants have already committed a crime just by arriving, and if they are not willing to go through the asylum system they are not going to be very English because, of course, we like to queue.

"Border control are only armed with a ten-inch torch.

"If you know that, and there were no consequences to cutting through fences or running past people, you've got nothing to lose, and that's why they are a joke.

"But it's no good just having the threat of armed force, you have to be prepared to use it.

"It will only take one or two people to be shot for them to be put off and this will all disappear.

"Police are given instructions on how they should treat situations with muslims – but not for sikhs or hindus.

"I want everyone treated the same way – one law for everyone."

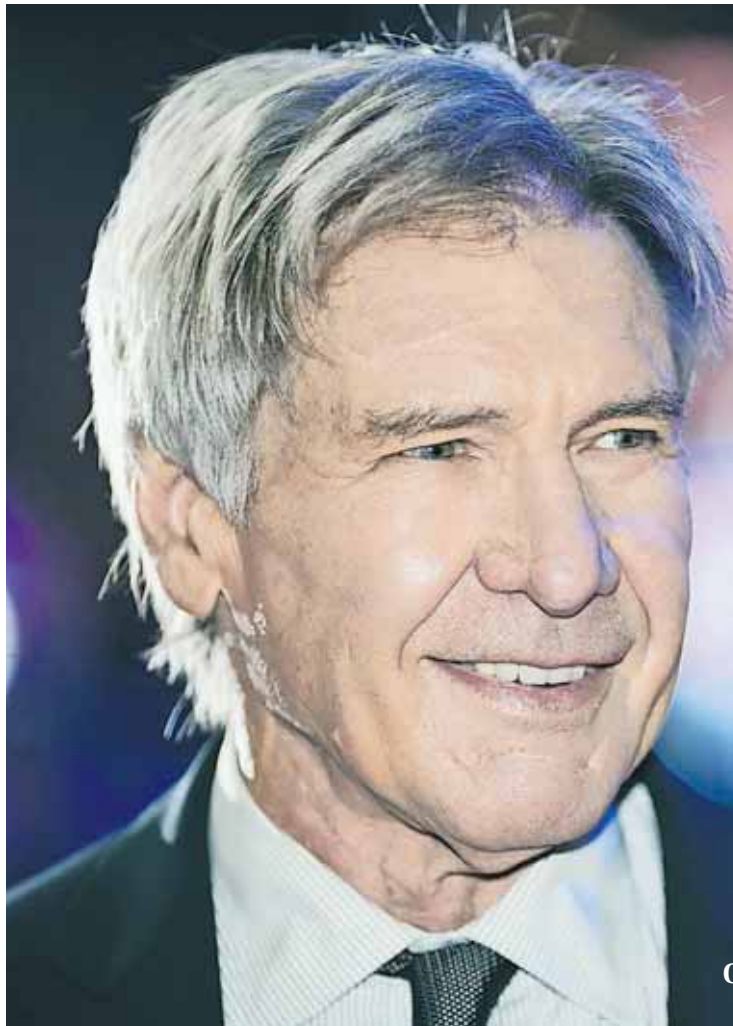
Mr Uncles believes the PCC role is a powerful one, in that it claims responsibility for whether or not the chief constable has a job.

"Obviously you can't go around making laws but I wouldn't say the role has limitations," he added "It's up to the commissioner to tell the police which ones to really focus on."

To increase police presence on the streets, Mr Uncles said he wanted to adopt the Port of Dover Police model, so that teams, accountable to Kent Police, will be present at high-density areas such as Bluewater shopping centre in Dartford, and university campuses in Canterbury.

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If you're over 50 you've witnessed some remarkable changes in the world. We reflect on some of the most significant...

THE pace of change in today's society is, at times, breathtaking. Little wonder for many of us that we can feel a little left behind. For our children or grandchildren, the world in which we grew up can seem a million miles away from that which they are familiar with now.

But while we may not have had the incredible level of powerful technology that so many are exposed to today, we were there for some of the most amazing moments in popular culture and development; achievements which can still amaze, but which we take for granted. We even saw England winning the FIFA World Cup – beating the Germans!

Certainly the quality of so many consumer items today are a mere shadow of the 'built-to-last' generation of the 1950s and 60s, and it's interesting to note that it's the big names who rocked our musical world

all those years ago which remain the biggest box office.

Yet it is so often the simple things in life which have changed beyond recognition. We take a look back at how things have changed over the decades.

COST OF LIVING

If you took yourself to the shops in 1971, you could comfortably buy a loaf of bread, a pint of milk, a pint of beer and a box of 20 cigarettes, and still come home with change from the 60p you left with.

Such has been the change in the cost of items, in today's money you'd need to be packing a £20 note to be sure of covering the items.

But then back in the days when a pint of beer would set you back 15p (today it's bearing down on £4), a loaf of bread for 10p (£1), milk for 6p (45p)

and fags 27p (£9.60), the average property cost a little over £5,500.

And parked outside it, you could have a brand new Mini for just over £600 or a Range Rover for around £2,000.

Compare that with today's average house price of an eye-watering £307,000 and a new Mini today will set you back comfortably over £10,000 while a Range Rover will be nudging £60,000 and it's fair to say things were cheaper back then.

Not that around half the population actually owned a car.

But while everything is relative, some things have comfortably outstripped the average salary.

Back in 1971, the average salary was a little over £2,000 – today that figure is just above £27,600.

It's worth noting that if the cost of property rose with inflation, an average home should now cost around £70,000.



TRAVEL

WHILE it's easy to focus on the explosion of technology, for many, the biggest impact over the decades has been in the relentless rise of transport.

From the number of cars on our roads, to access to the world by affordable air travel, the changes have been dramatic.

Yet, bizarrely, in some respects progress today is not quite as advanced as some would imagine.

After all, it was in 1969 when man first walked on the Moon. Since then,

space travel saw much of its budget consumed by a desire for ever more sophisticated weaponry.

While the Apollo missions concluded in 1972, the move to reach further into space with manned missions somewhat stalled. The Space Shuttle programme has been and gone with two notable disasters, while talk of putting a man on Mars remains something of a long-term ambition.

Staying within our atmosphere, the boom in cheap flights has revolutionised the way we travel. Kent's seaside towns are often a stark reminder



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At the start of the 1970s some 6.7 million of us made trips abroad... today, that figure dwarves 45.5m.

But then it was only in 1970 that the first Boeing 747 jumbo jet took to the skies and transformed flight. It was only beaten in size in 2006 with the introduction of the Airbus 380.

And like the space programme, some things back in the 1960s seemed remarkably ahead of their time. Concorde launched in 1969, whizzing across the Atlantic at twice the sound of speed and with a price tag to make the eyes of most water. But by 2003 it bowed out and touched down for the very last time.

Ferry firms enjoyed a boom period, before Eurotunnel slowed it right down, and we've seen the first Dartford tunnel bored in 1963 added to with another in 1980 and then a bridge in 1991.

It is traffic on our roads, however, where the figures have rocketed. In 1965 there were an estimated 14 million cars on our roads. Today that figure exceeds 35m

COMMUNICATIONS

ONCE upon a time, if you wanted to get in touch with someone who lived too far away to visit, your choice of communication was simple. You wrote a letter or picked up the phone.



If you were penning a note prior to 1968 there was just one class of post, at which point the two-tier first and second was introduced.

A first class stamp would almost certainly get to its destination the following day. And for 3p, as was the price in 1974 for example, you couldn't argue with the value. The

post would be delivered in one of at least two daily deliveries to your home; one of which would be waiting for you when you first woke up.

Today, the cost of a first class stamp is 64p – and while the aim is next-day delivery, bitter experience suggests it can be something of a lottery.

The transformation, of course,

comes through our use of electronic media. Long gone are the days when personal, handwritten, mail was the norm.

Today the letters most of us get are pre-printed bills. Personal correspondence is now via email – a medium which allows for almost instant delivery and through any

internet-enabled device.

As for phone calls, it's fair to say they have been on something of a rollercoaster too.

In post-war Britain, phones were still something of a luxury in the 1940s and 1950s – and those homes that did have them were provided with uniform, black, Bakelite models.

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As the years progressed, the phones became more sophisticated and public phones boomed. If you were out and needed a lift home, a public phone

box was always the way you contacted friends and family.

By the time the 1980 and 90s arrived, the home phone had evolved –

KEEP FIT: STRETCH OUT AND FEEL THE BENEFITS

WE'RE constantly being told of the importance of maintaining a fit and active lifestyle, and in truth the opportunities to do so have never been better.

Exercise can reduce your risk of major illnesses, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer by up to 50 per cent, and lower your risk of early death by up to 30 per cent.

But perhaps most significantly, it can keep your energy levels up, your mind fit and your mood will benefit as a result.

Of course, vigorous running is not always possible at our age, but that's not to say we can't remain fit and healthy through other activities.

The NHS says: "Exercise is the miracle cure we've always had, but for too long we've neglected to take our recommended dose."

"Our health is now suffering as a consequence."

"This is no snake oil. Whatever



your age, there's strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help you lead a healthier and even happier life.

"Research shows that physical activity can also boost self-esteem, mood, sleep quality and energy, as well as reducing your risk of stress, depression, dementia and Alzheimer's disease."

So what exercises can we do?

To stay healthy or to improve health, older adults are encour-

aged to do two types of physical activity each week: aerobic and strength exercises.

Access to gyms are now available like never before, many of which host a number of classes and sessions tailored to specific needs, so you can train and exercise at your own pace.

Be that cycling, jogging or using the weight machines, or swimming pool facilities if available, gyms offer a variety of ways to keep fit.

Better still, many of them offer a senior

discount as an extra incentive to get involved.

If that's not your scene though, there are dozens of walking clubs and groups available throughout the length and width county.

There, as well as filling your recommended exercise quota, you can take in some of the Garden of England's breathtaking scenery: be that the White Cliffs of Dover, Leeds Castle or the glorious north Kent marshes.

with cordless sets becoming popular, despite their sometimes erratic performance.

But it was the mobile which revolutionised the industry. The outcome

was phone boxes started disappearing from our streets – today simply trying to find one is a challenge in itself. And more and more of us have phone lines installed purely because

it is necessary for broadband access.

Ironically, while so many of us now have a mobile phone in our pockets, around one-in-four rarely ever use it to actually ring someone up.

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Festivals are hitting right note for us

From classic music line-ups to a feast of local food and drink, the county has a packed calendar during the year ahead

IF THERE is one thing that has proved lucrative in recent years, it is the delights of nostalgia.

And there is surely nothing which makes those of us who have a few miles on the clock relive our youth more than the power of music.

So it will come as little surprise that a combination of the two generally sees tickets snapped up swiftly.

Just take a quick peak at the success of the likes of the Rewind Festival – which serves up nothing but original artists from the 1980s – to see the appeal.

The original incarnation of the Hop

Farm Festival in Paddock Wood looked to build its reputation by serving up classic acts and featured the likes of Iggy Pop, Lou Reed, Blondie, Van Morrison, Ray Davies and The Eagles in 2010 and 2011.

This summer, a brand new festival arrives in August – specifically aimed at the mature rock fan.

A New Day Festival runs from August 5-7 at Mount Ephraim Gardens in Faversham.

With its feet firmly rooted in the 1970s, there's the likes of Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson, Wilko Johnson, Canterbury's own Caravan, the Stranglers, Steeleye Span and Ian Dury's

band The Blockheads.

Explains a spokesman for the organisers: "We know what is important, and we know what can ruin an otherwise good weekend.

"People want to see and hear good bands of course, and feedback so far tells us there's a lot of people out there who share our love for these classic bands.

"During the event we will ensure there are no horrendous queues for toilets, the bars will be staffed by experienced staff to eliminate infuriating queues there also - and the price of a pint will be no more than £3.50.

"We attended a festival not far from here last year, waited 20 minutes to be served and were charged £5.50 for a beer. That's the kind of thing that can ruin a festival."

For lovers of rock the summer of music kicks off locally at the Ramblin' Man Fair in Mote Park, Maidstone from July 23-24.

The two-day event features the likes of Whitesnake, Thin Lizzy, Uriah Heep, Hawkwind, Family and Procul Harum.

If soaking up the sun or rain in a field listening to classic rock isn't quite your thing, then the good thing is there are plenty of other things to do in the county this summer.

Keeping with a festival theme, there are a number of events which offer a laid-back day of browsing, music, art and food.

There's the Kent County Show between July 8-10 – the annual celebration of the county with more than a nod towards its agricultural roots.

Thousands will head to the show-ground at Detling for the event where livestock and stalls selling the most varied selection of local products will be doing a roaring trade.

Elsewhere, there's the hugely popular Whitstable Oyster Festival from July 21-31 which celebrates the town's shellfish heritage with a combination of arts and crafts and eating and drinking.

The laid-back sounds of Broadstairs Folk Week take place over August 5-12, and the town then hosts its popular food festival in October.

Faversham's Hop Festival runs September 3-4 and throughout the year, there's the chance to take a trip back in time to follow the story of the Shepherd Neame empire with regular brewery tours.



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Stars still shining brightly

If you thought showbusiness was just a young person's game think again. All on this page are still at the top of their game... but can you guess their ages?

THERE have been claims in the past that once you hit 40 your star starts to descend. But just try telling that to today's superstars - many of whom are enjoying mining a rich seam of appreciation as they get a little older.

According to the top 10 biggest grossing movie stars of last year were a gaggle of those who have long since blown out the candles on their 50th birthday cake - among them the likes of Robert Downey Jr (51), Jackie Chan (62) and Tom Cruise (53).

Star Wars was comfortably the biggest movie release in a decade and its line-up was led by Harrison Ford at 73, Even Mark Hammill (Luke Skywalker) hits 65 later this year.

The success of Downton Abbey can be attributed in no small part to Dame Maggie Smith who is perhaps more famous today than at any other point in her career. She's 81. An age she shares with fellow dame, Judi Dench, whose role in the James Bond movies has made her a global superstar.

All are proof that as we all get a little older our maturity adds to our existing talents.



HELEN MIRREN: Is going strong at 70



GALACTIC: Harrison Ford is 73 and Carrie Fisher is now 59



DAME: Maggie Smith is now a sprightly 81.



MATERIAL GIRL: Madonna is 57 years old.



NIGHT MANAGER: Hugh Laurie is 56



COOL: Samuel L Jackson isn't slowing down at the age of 67



SWOON: George Clooney's appeal is still intoxicating at 54



KNOCKOUT: Susan Sarandon will be 70 later this year

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PRINCE: On stage at Paddock Wood in July 2011



When Prince turned the county purple with festival headline slot

As the music world faces up to the tragic loss of the legendary performer at just 57, we take a look back at a magical weekend five years ago when the Minneapolis legend took to the stage at the Hop Farm

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FAN CHRIS BRITCHER REFLECTS ON THE PERSONAL LOSS OF THE MUSIC ICON

ON May 16, 2011, a tweet from a reliable source in the world of Prince announced the US star was going to play in Kent that July.

Within a few hours, the tweet had been removed and a wall of silence erected. Organisers at the show promised nothing other than an announcement a few days later. Fans held their breath. Could the diminutive musical genius really be heading to our county?

And then, trumpeted around the world, came the confirmation. Prince was coming.

The Hop Farm Festival, bankrolled by legendary music promoter Vince Power, had pulled off what many were beginning to feel was the impossible and got the Minneapolis maestro to headline a UK festival. Glastonbury had tried, and failed, for years.

It wouldn't come cheap, mind. Prince knew his pulling power as a live performer. But for a cool \$1 million (£700,000) Prince would step out onto the stage in Paddock Wood and set the place alight.

Some 30,000 fans gathered for the show. It wasn't, perhaps surprisingly, sold out - potentially in part to it forming a third additional day to what had originally been billed as a two-day event. But while the financial return may not have been through ticket sales, the publicity it

ONCE in a while, the planets align and someone you have never met and whom you will never know personally, enters your life and stubbornly refuses to leave.

I was just 11 when I fell under the spell of Prince in 1984. A move away from my friends as my family shifted from Tunbridge Wells to Ashford, meant I took solace in the weird world of pop music.

He was like nothing I had ever seen before; as if he were human mixed with something alien.

I played the Purple Rain album until the grooves of the vinyl started turning grey. Let's Go Crazy was - and remains - the only song I have never, ever tired of; capable of picking me up when I am down and my all time favourite as a consequence. It wasn't his best musical offering, but it exerted a power over me nothing else could.

As I grew a little older, so his music became my guide into another world. And, should you have listened to some of his earlier material, it certainly left little to the imagination. He blurred lines and barriers, swore and spoke of acts I had to consult the dictionary to define. He was intoxicating. And he just kept getting better.

When he released Sign O' The



Times - surely his defining single piece of work - I was 14 and needed more. An agonising few hours spent on the phone and I had tickets to a Wembley Stadium show in the summer of 1987. I was ecstatic. Wear something peach or black, it said on the ticket. My mother obliged... the peach shirt was ready. I bored people at school to death about it. But just weeks before the show took place he cancelled. I was devastated. I must admit I blubbed like a spoilt child.

I never cried again about Prince until this week.

The following year, promoting his Lovesexy album (where he perched naked on the album sleeve), I finally went to see him live at Wembley Arena. It would be a defining moment. From 1988, I would attend at least one show on

every subsequent UK tour. Watching him perform was like nothing else. He danced and sang, played the guitar, the piano, the drums and everything in between. He climbed on beds that would swing out above the crowd, drove around the stage in a full-size car, and then after all that head off to a small venue for another long show stretching into the small hours. He was relentless.

And I loved every single minute.

Granted, his musical output would start to decline in quality from the mid-1990s onwards, but there was always something about every subsequent release which made him worth it.

He and I got older together. Him in the luxury I continued to keep him in. Me in the slightly less well off state had I not just splurged yet more money on his concert tickets. He was a constant. A physical link transporting me from that 11-year-old to the 40-something I am now.

I stopped boring everyone about him long ago - there is surely nothing worse than a proper grown-up with an obsession about a pop star - but my devotion never died. He did things and said things which I didn't agree with and I came to the conclusion that it was

probably best to distance the man from the music.

But he kept the real man so hidden beneath the carefully constructed public persona I was able to focus on that. I liked the fact he rarely gave interviews, liked the fact he always looked like the perfectly groomed superstar that he was. I could focus on that and the music even when he was doing daft things like threatening fans with legal action for having a photograph of him on their website.

His music still had the power to move me and his live shows were, without exception, the most thrilling events I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing.

While others played golf, or obsessed about films, or pottered around with cars, I had Prince.

It's a cliché to say when one of your heroes dies a little part of you goes with them. But with Prince goes a chunk of my life that I clung to like a rock. He became a hobby and a hero in one. No more will the panic button be hit when tickets for his shows are about to go on sale. No more will my cousin and I - my partner in crime when it came to our mutual devotion to Prince - have glorious, unforgettable, days out to see him. And that in itself is an agony.

Prince is gone. But his place in my life will never be forgotten. As silly as I know that is.

Continued on page 35

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Continued from page 33

generated was immense both in the coup of booking him and the critical reception afterwards.

By the time July 3 dawned, the festival crowd was ready to be sent home on a high.

The opening night had seen The Eagles perform, while the Saturday night was a sensational blend of Iggy Pop, Lou Reed and a sublime headline slot from Morrissey.

It would take quite something to top that.

The weather was glorious. The sun shone and the air was warm. It was exactly like a festival should be.

Prince was playing no other UK show that year and, as a consequence, his hardcore fans were flocking from far and wide to watch him perform – many travelling from across Europe for the show.

As the day-long musical line-up began, many had already started to move into position at the centre of the stage. Prepared to stay there for hours just to ensure they were in pole position.

As the day drew on, Larry Graham, bass player of the legendary Sly and the Family Stone took to the stage. He and Prince had grown close over the years.

Not only were the band a heavy influence on Prince, but Larry Graham is seen by many to be the man who introduced Prince to the Jehovah Witness faith in 2001. They performed frequently together.

By the time Tinie Tempah, second on the bill, performed, the front of the stage had become a heaving mass of bodies. Young and old alike were desperate to witness a man whose reputation as a live



HIT: The Hop Farm show was Prince's only UK festival performance

performer was second to none.

The anticipation was tangible as the crowd waited to see Prince arrive. Some still harboured deep fears he would pull out at the last minute.

But then, there he was. Striding out to a rapturous reception. And Prince being Prince, he even managed to kick off the set with a song which doubled up as a soundcheck.

Would he, though, play the hits or would he, as many fans pondered, instead perform a setlist of fan favourites but which disappoint

the casual admirer?

He did not let anyone down. Every one of his first nine songs were plucked straight from his greatest hits collection. Kicking off with the magnificent splendour of Let's Go Crazy, mixed with a little Delirious, he then stormed through 1999, Nothing Compares 2 U (the song he penned originally for proteges The Family but which would deliver a global hit for Sinéad O'Connor), Take Me With You, Raspberry Beret and Cream.



By the time he'd thrown in a tribute to Michael Jackson – his old rival megastar from their 1980s hey-day - he rounded off with the likes of U Got the Look, Purple Rain, Kiss, Controversy, If I Was Your Girlfriend and wrapped it up with Baby I'm a Star – plucked from his multi-million selling Purple Rain album.

He'd left the venue before the final notes of the final song had been played - as was his custom to avoid getting caught up in the crush.

The headlines which came with the performance were universally positive.

Prince for \$1m? He was worth every penny.



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Cancer charity focuses on what young people are able to achieve

Launched at the Turner Contemporary in Margate this week, YouCAN aims to help those aged 10 to 30 by concentrating on what can be done during illness and as they try to get back to a 'new' normality...

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

ACANCER charity has been launched in Kent with an emphasis on helping young people recover from the profound impact the condition can have on their lives.

As the name implies, YouCAN is focused on what people with cancer are able to achieve – both during their illness and afterwards, when they face the task of trying to get back to normality.

More than 2,300 teenagers and young adults are diagnosed with cancer every year – over six per day – with instances of the condition in the young increasing by 55 per cent since the late 1970s.

Fortunately, 85 per cent survive – but they face an uphill struggle to overcome the personal and professional setbacks they have experienced.

The charity, which is part of the Children's Development Trust (CDT), was officially launched at the Turner Contemporary in Margate on Thursday (April 21), setting out its vision to transform cancer care in the county.

Colin Thacker, chairman of the CDT, told Kent on Sunday that YouCAN aims to address a gap in the provision of support for those with cancer between the ages of ten and 30.

"There is support out there but in terms of young people, it is good for children but not for young people," he said.

"The ten to 30 period covers a transitional stage in people's lives, with GCSEs and A-levels and so on, and their employment position is altered by the diagnosis. But if people are nine or 32, we won't turn them away.

"We have agreed to buy one property in Thanet to provide a respite house in a confidential location. The idea is to give people short breaks, or weekend breaks to relieve the stress of trying to manage with their family.

"If it is after treatment, there is an ongoing impact. If one of your parents has to give up work to look after you, there can be a big financial impact, so you might be unable to afford a break.

"We also offer a variety of support services, such as counselling, massage, yoga and reiki.

"It is about bringing people together to share their experiences with someone their own age."

Mr Thacker himself had cancer and is now in remission, and he said he could not imagine having to deal with the illness as a teenager with hopes and aspirations for the future.

Chief fundraiser Natalie Tegg explained that much of the charity's backing comes from businesses, particularly through engaging staff - volunteers are currently painting the



respite house.

"We also get a lot of community support from people doing cake sales and traditional fundraising," she added. "That £5 can really make a difference.

"We have linked up with Kent Sport to provide exercise for people - it can help to reduce the probability of recurrence."

As part of the holistic approach to

treatment, the charity also runs healthy eating workshops for people on a budget, so they can improve their diet.

Like Mr Thacker, Ms Tegg also has a close personal connection with the cause, having been diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 39.

As a parent, she can relate to the impact the condition can have on youngsters.

"You can be off school for 18

North & West

have enough issues to worry about as it is," she explained.

"And the physical effects it can have, such as on your appearance, can have a big impact on your confidence.

"It is about building up confidence and self-esteem – about getting back to a 'new normal'."

Twenty-four-year old Tom Jenkins, from Sittingbourne, was studying mechanical engineering at university when he was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2014.

He told KoS: "I was at uni at the time finishing my second year, and I had to take a year out – and it is a big change to come home.

"I had to go out of my way to get people to come and see me at home.

"I think it has set me back. I have gone back to uni, but the time out has affected me, and there is only so much the uni can do to help."

Mr Jenkins explained how he had benefited from support provided during his treatment – particularly from exercise.

"It gives you something to look forward to during treatment and afterwards as well, because you can never really move on," he said.

"Before I was diagnosed I played American Football, but then I started to drop out of it.

"It is difficult because you spend a lot of time through treatment being told not to do things, and there is not much of an emphasis on what you can do.

"You are treading on eggshells all the time, thinking, 'should I go on a run or will that hurt me?'"

The charity has a multi-disciplinary approach, partnering with other cancer charities such as MacMillan and Clic Sargeant, as well as the NHS, through Maidstone and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother hospitals.

Ms Tegg said it could grow to cover other areas in future and has already established links with organisations in Sussex and London – Great Ormond Street is about to become a partner.

YouCAN also has a number of high-profile ambassadors, including Capital FM presenter Dave Berry, professional golfer Ben Barham, and BBC TV and radio journalist and presenter Victoria Derbyshire.

"The reaction we have had so far from the people of Kent has been fantastic," Mr Thacker said.

"We want to send out a positive message. We want to put people back on the right road."

■ If you want to get involved with YouCAN, or for more information, visit www.you-can-org.uk, email helo@you-can.org.uk or telephone 01732 844874.

kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk

POSITIVE: YouCAN's founders are keen to help young people with cancer go on to lead fulfilling lives.

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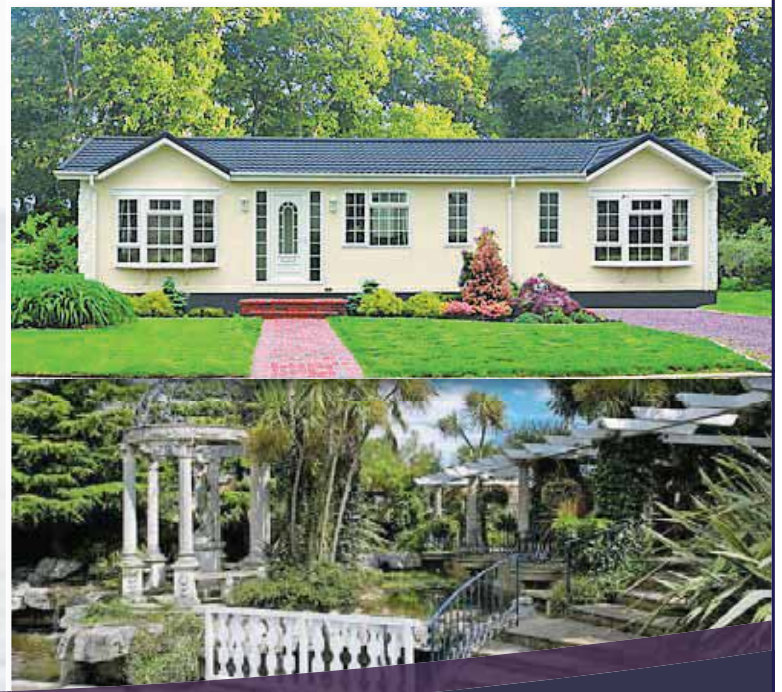
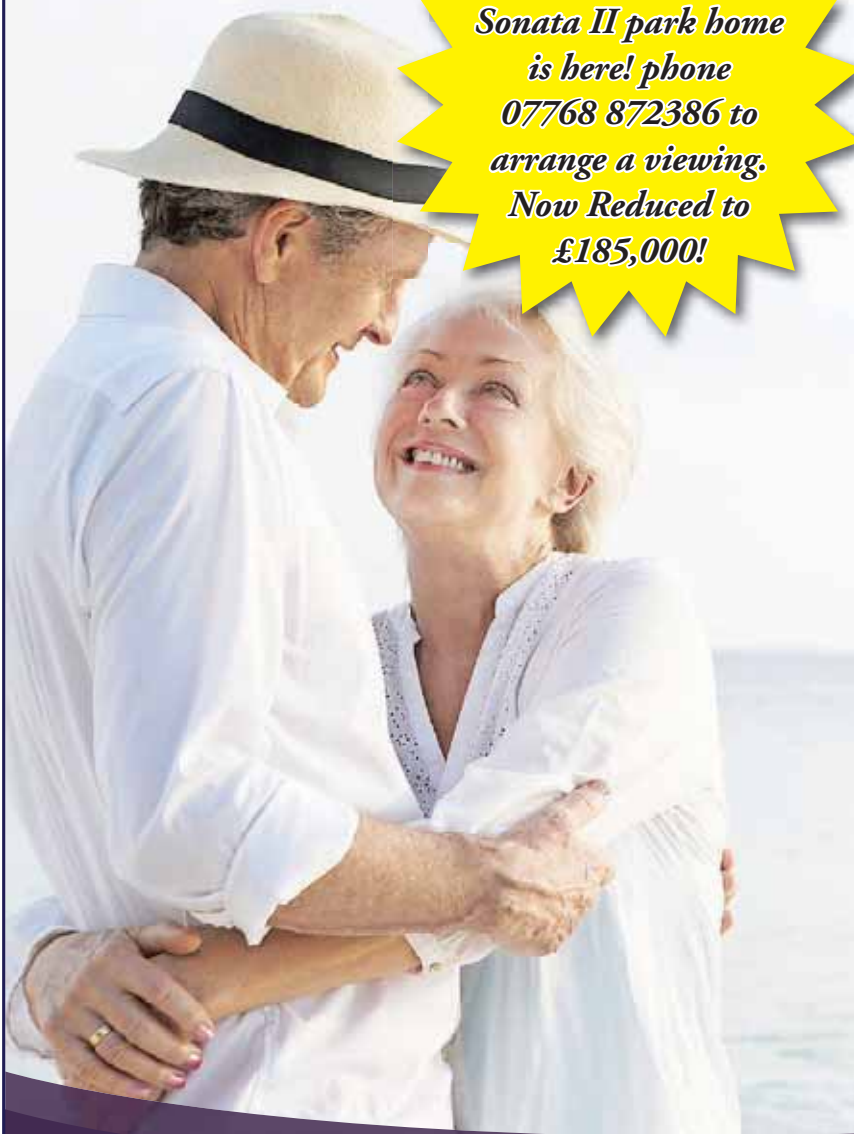
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BRIGHT: Colourful parade attracted another big turnout

Crowds hit the streets to celebrate Vaisakhi

Sikh community in Gravesend deliver a splash of colour as they celebrate a day which marks the creation of their faith dating back more than 300 years

THOUSANDS took part in the annual Vaisakhi celebrations in Gravesend last weekend, as people travelled from across the country to participate.

The festival is the Sikh new year festival and also commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith.

Last year's parade captured front page headlines after prime minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha joined the event a month before the nation went to the polls for the general election.

Davinder Singh Bains, president of the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, said: "Despite the poor weather I was overwhelmed by how many people came to support the Vaisakhi celebrations.

"Vaisakhi celebrates the birth of the Sikh faith and one of its key tenants is seva, giving one's time in selfless service and this could be seen all through the celebrations with members of the local congregation giving

up their time in the weeks leading up to help ensure that Vaisakhi was a success.

"The Sikh community has a long and proud history here in Gravesend and we appreciate the support of all our partners and the local community in making Vaisakhi such a colourful spectacle."

Gurvinder Sandher who has been working with the Guru Nanak Darbar Management Committee to organise the festivities added: "It is so rewarding after months of planning to see that despite the poor weather thousands of people coming out to support the Vaisakhi celebrations.

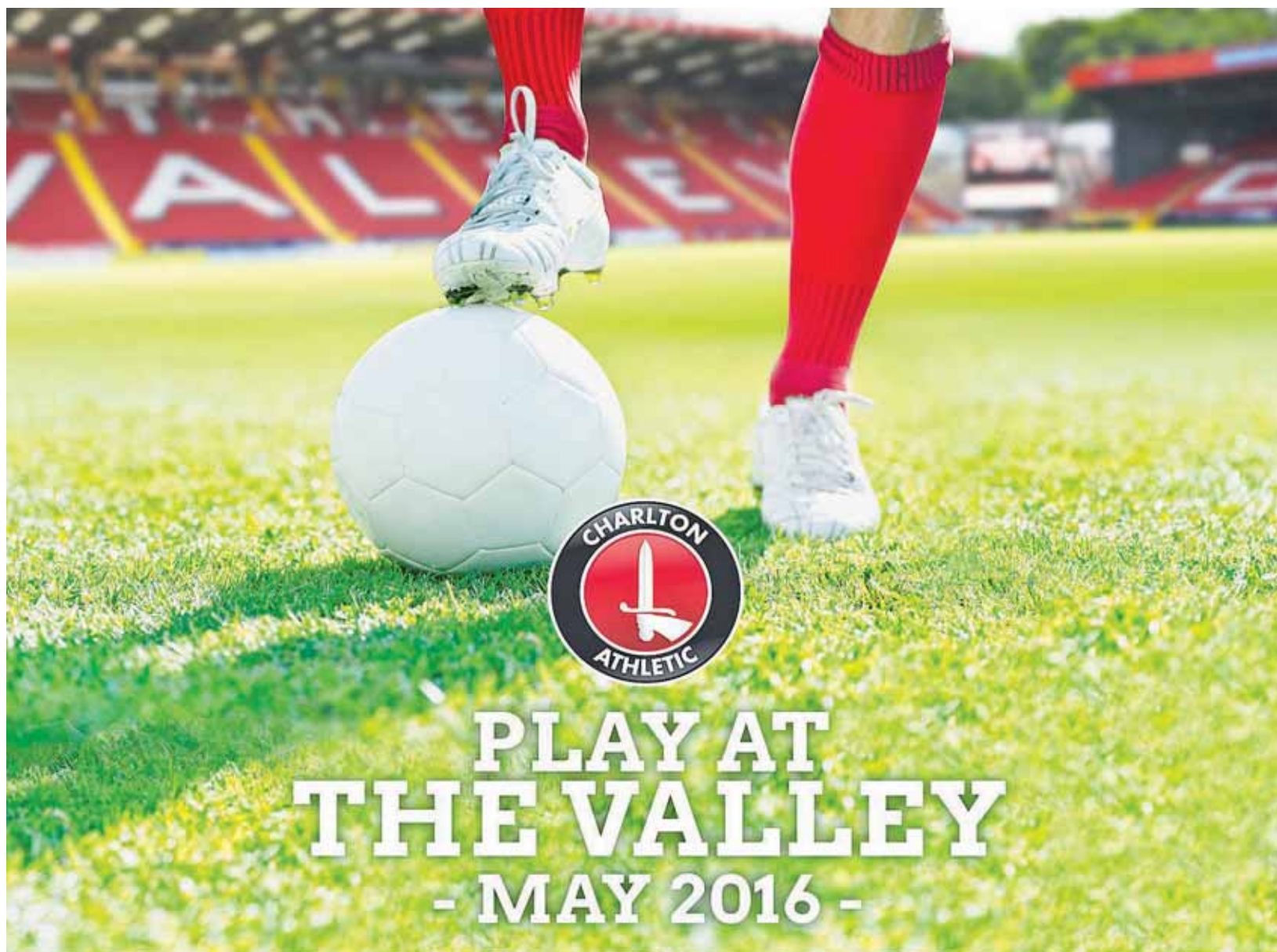
"Great credit needs to be given to all the volunteers who gave up their time to make Vaisakhi such a colourful and spectacular celebration.

"The Vaisakhi celebrations in Gravesend are some of the biggest in the UK and it is a great testament for all concerned that they have evolved from just being a Sikh celebration to one involving all communities regardless of faith."



CHEER: Gravesend town centre was packed last weekend as the Sikh community spilled onto the streets in an event which last year was attended by prime minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha - a picture opportunity which made national headlines.. All pictures on this page courtesy of Sarah Knight/Gravesend Borough Council and Cohesion Plus.

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THE ALL-STAR STAND-UP TOUR



LAUGHTER: Top comedians (clockwise from top left) Gary Delaney, Sean Hughes, Jarred Christmas and Pete Firman

'There is nothing else like a live comedy experience'

Top comics promise an unpredictable evening of laughter at Theatre Royal...

AN all-star group of stand-up comedians is coming to Margate next month – and they insist that live gigs are still the best way to experience comedy.

Sean Hughes, Pete Firman, Jarred Christmas and Gary Delaney have contributed to some of the biggest comedy shows on TV, including *Mock the Week*, 8 out of 10 cats and *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*.

Their All-Star Stand-Up Tour reaches the Theatre Royal on May 7, and they are keen to defend live comedy in an age when so much is available on TV and the internet.

Mr Hughes said: "Anything can happen on the night, it's unpredictable, that's what it's all about. I can go out and do things I have no intention of doing – you just can't do that on TV. You can really connect

with the audience at a live show."

Mr Firman added: "Nothing beats being in the room while it's happening. Atmosphere, immediacy. You don't get that sitting at a computer by yourself. There is nothing else like a live comedy experience."

The funny men recounted some of the best and worst live experiences of their careers, many of which attest to the unpredictability of stand-up comedy.

Mr Delaney said that one of his best experiences was during a gig for the National Association of Bikers with Disabilities.

The audience started rolling around laughing, and he thought he was 'killing it' – but soon discovered the real cause of their mirth.

"The bright sunlight was casting a clear silhouette of a weeing man right behind me on stage, and I was

the only one who couldn't see it. It looked like a shadow puppet of the *Mannekin Piss* in Brussels, but 20 stone, in a leather jacket and with a can of lager in the other hand."

One of his worst moments came in front of an audience in Berlin, when he ended up 'playing for seven minutes to a politely baffled silence'.

"It's lovely to be here in Berlin, I've never been here before but my granddad used to visit regularly... when he was in the RAF'. Opening lines are so important aren't they?" Mr Delaney said.

The comics also named some of their all-time favourite comedians. For Mr Hughes, it's Richard Prior: "I saw him on TV when I was 14 and that's the reason I did comedy really. I was a kid in Ireland and there was this middle-aged American crack addict saying things I

could really understand."

Mr Delaney named American Emo Phillips: "My favourite joke of his is: 'I got in trouble on a date once, I didn't open the car door for her. Instead, I just swam to the surface.'"

It's a cliché that everyone thinks they have a sense of humour, and it's certainly a common trait. But the comics insist that stand-up is a fine art.

Mr Christmas said: "You can learn techniques and tricks but that will never beat being naturally funny. But you need to work at it even if you are a natural. We all have mates who are funny, but not many who could make it as professional comedians."

The All-Star Stand-Up Tour 2016 kicks off at 7.30pm on May 7 at the Theatre Royal, Margate. Standard tickets are £18.50.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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Are you embarrassed by your teeth?

Get your confidence back with no downtime with this new Dental Implant system!

Dr Pieter Claassen of Hanover House, a local dental clinic is experiencing high demand for dental implants due to an advanced technique called PRGF which they offer to patients that are having dental implants.

This new system encourages healing at an accelerated rate which means patients are able to go about their normal, everyday life without any or very little down-time.

Patients travel from all over, demanding this unique treatment which is also being used to help sportsmen and women speed up the healing process following injury. PRGF stands for Plasma Rich Growth Factors, - referred to as accelerated healing by the Hanover House dental implant team.

The Problem

If you are one of the thousands of people suffering from missing or painful teeth you do not need to be reminded that it is very likely you will experience any or all of the following problems.

- Not being able to eat what you want
- Having to use fixative several times a day which is difficult to remove from your denture
- Your confidence has dropped
- You forget the last time you went on a date because you FEAR your little secret will be discovered.
- You don't enjoy food anymore because of the denture covering the roof of your mouth
- You find yourself talking with your hand in front of your mouth to either stop a loose denture from moving or to hide an embarrassing gap
- When did you last smile?
- You no longer join in for photos or when you do you stand at the back
- Your grandchildren comment on your missing teeth
- You suffer from bad posture due to a lack of confidence
- You choose the safe option when going out for a meal...every time!
- You find yourself making excuses to visit the toilet

after eating to clean your denture.

- You have bone loss where the denture is pressing on underlying bone
- You can often hear a 'funny sound' when the denture chews against another denture or teeth
- You have a constant fear you will lose or break your dentures
- Dogs love chewing dentures that lie unattended.

The excitement

For most of us suffering from ill-fitting denture, painful or loose teeth, all of the problems can be eliminated through the use of dental implants.

Dr Claassen says, "Most patients normally have dental implants to stabilise loose and uncomfortable dentures or to replace embarrassing missing teeth. Having fixed teeth again means that they can eat and enjoy the food they want and have the confidence to smile in family photos again."

PRGF is 100% Natural

The system is the magic solution that helps to speed up the healing process after the procedure, promoting our own unique healing factors to burst into action. Using the revolutionary PRGF system also increases the success rate.

For the first time ever Hanover House Dental Practice are offering the PRGF system completely free of charge when a dental implant is placed. Normally this amazing new treatment would cost £350.00 but for a limited period only

Dr Claassen is offering it for FREE!

Clinical Results

In a study of 1391 dental implant placements using PRGF, the success rate was 99.6%. This shows just how special PRGF is, and as our free introductory gift to you, Dr Claassen wants to provide it free of charge - but not for long. In fact, you only have until Friday 22nd April 2016 to take up this offer!

Patients who have osteoporosis often receive medication to strengthen their bones. Unfortunately, in some cases it can lead to the opposite - impaired healing of bone structure.

PRGF is excellent for patients potentially at risk of dental implant failure, shortening the time it takes for the body to accept your implants.

The Benefits

There are many benefits when a patient chooses to have dental implants and using the PRGF system only increases those benefits...

Below are just a few;

1. Faster healing time; Less down time
2. Reduced pain and swelling
3. No one will know unless you want them too!
4. Natural healing from your healing factors
5. Get back your quality of life

How it works

PRGF - Plasma Rich Growth Factor is a 100% natural product specific and unique to each patient. A small amount of blood is placed in a centrifuge and separated in different layers. Only the parts, rich in growth factors are then used and applied onto the implant and the surrounding areas in the mouth.

In the several years PRGF have been used in different medical fields there has never been a reported side effect.

What people say

"Pieter worked painstakingly to achieve the perfect finish. The dental implants have given me back my smile and confidence and I no longer have to worry about what I eat"

Mrs. P. Mahoney - Speldhurst

"Having dental implants was well worth the effort and the difference was extraordinary, making it the best decision I ever made. I used to be self-conscious about my teeth. I wouldn't eat in public in case my dentures fell out and I hated how they felt in my mouth. Since having dental implants I am so much happier. I can eat what I want, when I want, including apples and I am much more confident. Even my friends have commented on how happy and relaxed I look."

Stephen Barnham - Tonbridge

Ken, a patient of Dr Claassen at Hanover House Dental Practice says... *"I wasn't certain about going down this route but now feel SMILES better!"* which is evident in his before and after treatment photos.



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■ Mr Ken Winch AFTER Treatment

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CeeLo Green kicks off Marlowe contemporary music season

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

WORLD-famous singer CeeLo Green is heading to Canterbury next month in one of only three shows he will play in the UK this year.

The five-time Grammy Award-winning entertainer shot to fame as a solo artist on the back of UK chart-topper *Forget You*, which made the top ten in 13 countries.

As well as old hits, he will be performing material from new release *Heart Blanche*, which features singles Robin Williams; *Sign of the Times* and *Music To My Soul* and *Work*.

Mr Green is launching the theatre's new contemporary music season, *Music At The Marlowe*, which will see it play host to a range of famous faces.

Billy Ocean, Russell Watson, Ernest Ranglin, Matt Cardle, Jocelyn Brown, Icons of the 80s (featuring T'Pau, Nik Kershaw and Go West), Elaine Paige, Billy Bragg and Dr Hook are all set to play the main house in the next few months.

Meanwhile, Peter Howarth, Ro-



STAR: CeeLo Green shot to solo fame with the infectious single *Forget You*, released in 2010.

byn Hitchcock and Glenn Tillbrook are among those playing *The Marlowe Studio*.

Mr Green first came onto the music scene as a member of the southern hip-hop group Goodie Mob, along with Big Gipp, T-Mo and Khujo.

He later formed Gnarls Barkley with deejay-producer Danger Mouse, releasing the 2006 hit *Crazy*, which reached number one in

several singles charts.

In 2010, Mr Green launched his solo career with the album *The Lady Killer*, which featured *Forget You*.

Last year, he featured on Kendrick Lamar's new album *Untitled Unmastered*, contributing his vocals to song *Untitled 6*.

He also took on coaching duties for four seasons of NBC's hit show *The Voice*, alongside Christina

Aguilera, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton.

The singer is the latest in a range of famous faces to appear at the venue, including Van Morrison, Texas, Elvis Costello, Hugh Masakela, The Waterboys, Joan Armatrading and Nick Lowe.

Mr Green and his live band will play at *The Marlowe Theatre* at 7.30pm on Monday, May 30. Tickets cost £59.50 and £69.50.

Mission Impudseyble?

BRITAIN'S Got Talent winners Ashleigh and Pudsey arrive in Dartford at the end of May with their new show, *Mission Impudseyble*. The entertainment duo will perform at The Orchard on May 29 and 30.



Barrowman book-signing

JOHN and Carole Barrowman will be at Waterstones Bluewater in Dartford next month to meet fans and sign copies of their new book *Conjuror*, a fantasy adventure story. The actor and his sister will be at the bookshop on Saturday, May 7. Fans should arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Bobby Davro to perform

COMEDIAN and TV personality Bobby Davro is stopping off in Dartford on his new tour. The *Celebrity Big Brother* star, who rose to fame in the 1980s, will be at The Orchard, Dartford, on June 12.



MasterChef critic's talk

MASTERCHEF star Jay Rayner will discuss our love affair with bad reviews when he arrives at Chatham Theatre on May 15. His show, *My Dining Hell*, will feature tales of the most excruciating nights out he has ever experienced. Mr Rayner was recently voted the best food and drink journalist in Britain.

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Europe of Nations and Freedom

April update from your Independent MEP for South East
Janice Atkinson

I attended the Strasbourg session of the European Parliament this month and can report back on the following:

Sovereign State Democracy Threat from EU –
The EU put forward a motion to impose sanctions on the newly elected government in Poland as they did not like their politics. This is a sovereign nation with a democratically elected government. No diktats from the EU should be telling the Polish people how to run their own internal affairs. This is symptomatic of the EU in its power grabs and determination to openly ignore democracy, put forward by the socialist group and supported by the British Labour Party.

EU-Turkey Blackmail deal –
I call it a blackmail deal because we get nothing in return: the EU has to be seen to be doing something. The UK's contribution could have bought more Border Force staff and boats. Instead, we sent two of our border control boats, leaving us exposed with only three left in the UK. Between France, Italy and Greece there are 750 border force boats. Their combined coastal area is 30,000km, ours is 3,500km. If we had 10% of their border power, we would have a minimum of 75 boats, we do not.

What we get in return is open VISA access to the UK for 75m Turks and a fast-tracking invitation for Turkey's EU membership. I spoke in this debate and pointed out that whilst our newspapers showed 200 migrants flagged by 200 Frontex guards dressed up like paramilitary forces, another 300 were entering Greece. I said the British people are not fooled by this false show of toughness. I suggested that instead of imposing migrant quotas on EU states, they should be urging Muslim states to take their fair share. So far Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have taken zero migrants. This is a world problem, not just an EU problem.

Migration Quotas and Integration–
I also spoke in a separate EU migration debate highlighting that integration has not worked with people who arrived here over 40 years ago. I quoted the recent most comprehensive survey of British Muslims ever conducted (and, I think, within the whole of the EU). I asked the EU what magic plans they had for integration, given their absolute commitment to multiculturalism. As usual there were no answers, other than 'we will allocate quotas or sanctions will be imposed'.

MEPs Gravy Train Trundles on and on ... -
We had the chance to provide greater transparency; abandon the costly vanity project of the European House of History; to commit to no further EU Parliamentarium projects; abolition of MEP chauffeur service in certain areas; abolish business class travel and much more. It was all rejected by MEPs.

Janice

Janice Atkinson MEP
UK Delegation
Europe of Nations & Freedom Group

Janiceatkinson.co.uk
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Squeeze lyricist on tour

THE man behind Cool for Cats and Up the Junction, Squeeze's Chris Difford, will be in Whitstable next month. The musician and lyricist is appearing at the Horsebridge Centre on May 21.



Hythe prepares for festival

THE Hythe Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever this year, with events taking place across the town. All the old favourites will be there, along with a performance of Hook by students from Brockhill Park Performing Arts College for the Seafront Spectacular. The festival will run from July 1 to 10.

Chas and Dave in Kent

ENTERTAINMENT duo Chas and Dave are heading to Kent on their 2016 tour. The Rockney pioneers will appear at Central Theatre, Chatham, on May 30 and Winter Gardens, Margate, on December 8.



Festival adds final acts

THE Forgiven Fields festival has announced the final acts that will appear on the 2016 line-up, including Eliza and the Bear, Moose Blood and Isaac Gracie. The festival will take place at Eridge Park, Sussex, on August 5-7. Suede, Kodaline and Dizzee Rascal are headlining the event.

Sixties come back to life with Motown magic

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

SOME of the biggest hits of the Motown era are being played at a musical tribute coming to Chatham at the end of April.

Magic of Motown is celebrating its tenth birthday with a tour of the UK and Ireland, bringing the 1960s back to life in style.

The Reach Out tour 2016 will feature some of the era's biggest hits, including Stop in the Name of Love, Dancing in the Street; My Guy, Ain't No Mountain High Enough and I Heard it Through the Grapevine.

UK-based producer Michael Taylor said: "Thirty-six classic songs are revived amid a flurry of glittering costume changes and starring all the dazzling dance moves and superb musicianship of the original artists."

Magic of Motown has racked up more than 1,500 performances over ten years, including most of the UK's biggest theatres and concert halls.

Its popularity has also begun to



spread to other countries, with tours of the Netherlands, Denmark, the Czech Republic, France, Ireland and Algeria.

For the 2016 tour, the performers are backed by the long-established Magic of Motown band who, the producer claims, are able to create the authentic Motown sound.

Mr Taylor said: "In the capable hands of the cast and the musicians you can guarantee that the score will be - with a nod to the great Stevie Wonder - uptight... alright and out of sight!"

Style was a vital part of Motown's appeal, and the show's designers have taken care to reproduce the original look of the stars on stage. Top costume designer Claire Davis has been enlisted to create colourful outfits for the cast, while leading man Andre Lejaune coordinates the choreography so that the intricate dance moves are recreated.

Magic of Motown will play at Central Theatre, Chatham on Friday, April 29 at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £25.50.



WONDER: Cast mimic Motown stars as they were in their heyday.



STYLE: Designers have recreated iconic look of Sixties singers



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Madeleine's bid to improve our attitude to food

Nutritionist's new book *Ready, Steady, Glow* shows how to make healthy fuss-free meals even on busy days

NUTRITIONIST Madeleine Shaw is on a mission to improve our attitude towards food, especially in how we deal with so-called diet setbacks.

"The worst thing you can do is be hard on yourself and negative," says the 26-year-old, who counts Millie Mackintosh as a client.

"It's almost like that stress on your body counteracts any of the good stuff you're doing. For me, it's not just about the food you put on the plate, but the attitude you have to food and yourself.

"I want to start a revolution of people being kinder to themselves."

And that means putting that extra-slice-of-triple-chocolate-cake-shaped

blip into perspective.

"You've got to tell yourself that this one meal isn't really going to change things," she explains. "One piece of cake doesn't really put on loads of weight. Tell yourself that, and then get back to eating healthy with your next meal."

Being kind to yourself extends to expectations around cooking food from scratch, too. It's a great thing to do in theory, Shaw agrees, but whipping out the pans for every meal isn't always realistic.

"It's very difficult to make all your food," says the foodie and yoga fan. "On a busy day like today, I'll buy food out, but you can make good choices if you're grabbing something for lunch; there's always choice."



ATTITUDE: Madeleine Shaw

She believes with a bit of planning, nutritious fuss-free meals can be achieved even during busy spells, and has devoted her new book, *Ready Steady Glow*, to just that.

Divided into "fast weeks and slow weekends", many of the meals take 20 minutes or less to make, but there are more time-consuming recipes too, for those who want to "make that stew, do some baking...", as well as a section detailing her basic yoga routine, and handy weekly meal plans.

Being busy is something Shaw can wholeheartedly appreciate. A year on from releasing her debut healthy-eating book, *Get The Glow*, life has moved up a notch.

Up until her teens, she admits she

ate a "typical magazine diet of Diet Coke and low-fat yoghurt" to stay slim, but found herself riddled with digestive problems and energy slumps.

Things changed when she moved to Sydney aged 18 to study, and started working at a healthy cafe.

Shaw admits her changes didn't happen overnight, but inspired, she trained as a nutritionist and returned to the UK with renewed zest, eager to share her knowledge via her food and lifestyle blog.

She now has 217k followers on Instagram and 39k on Twitter, and as well as writing, does talks and supper clubs, and has collaborated on a string of projects, including a special healthy menu for Brown's Hotel.

City's festival of food

THE annual Canterbury Food and Drink Festival 2016 returns to the city from the 23rd to 25th September.

Kent's biggest food festival, set in the Dane John Gardens, attracted 40,000 people and proved to be a huge hit with all ages as people got to savour the best food and drink in Kent, listen to music from a choice of two stages, shop for supper and let the kids run wild in the Kids Field.

Sculptures in wood

BEACH Creative are pleased to welcome back Victoria Claire with some new stunning wooden sculptures.

Her exhibition Enlightenment will be in the Duchamp Gallery at the Bay Art Gallery in Herne Bay until Sunday. While in the Marcel Gallery, Mark Galloway is showing some digital images influenced by the ever-changing environment of the ocean.

For details, visit www.BeachCreative.org

Hounslow Girl in Kent

A BRITISH Muslim teenager faces a conflict of cultures in coming of age comedy set in the heart of west London.

Written by Ambreen Razia, *Hounslow Girl* uncovers the typical life of young Muslim women who wear big hooped earrings along with their headscarves - challenging stereotypes of young British Muslim women.

The play is at the Theatre Royal Margate on May 13 and 14, from 7.30pm.

Pioneering Kora music

PIONEERING musician and singer Sona Jobarteh plays the Kora and has modernised the presentation of the West African harp.

Effortlessly blending different musical styles, not just between West African musical genres, but also between Africa and the West, she and her band will be performing on Friday, June 24, at The Marlowe Studio at The Friars in Canterbury, from 8pm.

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We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2016



Headline
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NOMINATIONS are now being invited for the 2016 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 17 from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs, cafes and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included will all be nominated by you, our Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've enjoyed a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce

and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

Entries close on August 7. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, starting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our fourth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise

the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online.

We are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

■ Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag

Kent Life and
Kent on Sunday
Food & Drink
Awards 2016
Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

Please post your entry form to:
Food & Drink Awards 2016.
Archant Kent,
Kent House, 81 Station Road,
Ashford TN23 1PP

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available ___at www.kent-life.co.uk and at www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is Sunday, August 7, 2016

Name
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.....
Email

By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database. Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.

Newcomer of the Year Sponsored by Clive Emson Land & Property auctioneers Who? Where? Why?	Independent food or drink retailer of the Year Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinic Who? Where? Why?	Cafe of the Year Who? Where? Why?
Food Producer of the Year Sponsored by Motorline Maserati Who? Where? Why?	Drinks Producer of the Year Who? Where? Why?	Farm Shop of the Year Who? Where? Why?
Farmers' Market of the Year Sponsored by Perry's Chartered Accountants Who? Where? Why?	Pub of the Year Sponsored by Eastwell Manor Who? Where? Why?	Restaurant of the Year Sponsored by The Foxhunter Park Who? Where? Why?
Chef of the Year Sponsored by the Canterbury Auction Galleries Who? Where? Why?	Customer Service of the Year Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury Who? Where? Why?	Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year Who? Where? Why?

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food and drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months.

We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield.

Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure.

The retailer who includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate.

Our winner will have a special 'must-have' range as well as making a real contribution to their local community.

Paying a visit to their shop will be a treat in itself.

CAFE OF THE YEAR

This category has changed from the previous Tea Shop of the Year to include places that also specialise in coffee! Tea and coffee shops are an integral part of the Kent food and

drink scene. Who makes the best tea and coffees, serves the nicest cakes and biscuits and the freshest scones? Are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We look forward to hearing your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



This category celebrates our local producers.

We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top quality local produce and service to their customers.

We are also keen to hear of any innovations.

If they're doing something new, we'd like to hear about it.

So if your local baker, grocer or farmer delights then please let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers.

Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy.

We want to know who you think makes the best drink, alcoholic or not, in the county, and what it is that makes it so special.

We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, introducing a fabulous new flavour, then we would like to all hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt farmers away from their local supermarkets.

Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme?

Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

Nominate your favourite farm shop now.

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Let us know so we can tell everyone the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We're looking for an inn that also offers delicious locally-sourced food, fantastic

customer service and real value for money. Pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community.

If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable

dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced? Do they support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Do they have local as well as international wines and champagnes and can the staff tell you more if you ask?

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with some outstanding chefs working in a fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to serving the best possible food. They'll demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Most of our awards recognise customer

service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake.

Do you know a person, organisation or establishment that offers fabulous service that goes above and beyond what you expect?

We all know excellent service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, then let us know.

KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK - as you would expect from the Garden of England.

As well as being blessed with some of the final local produce around, the county also has a variety of fantastic eateries located in local towns and villages.

This category will be celebrating the individual who has made a positive impact on the county's food or drink community.

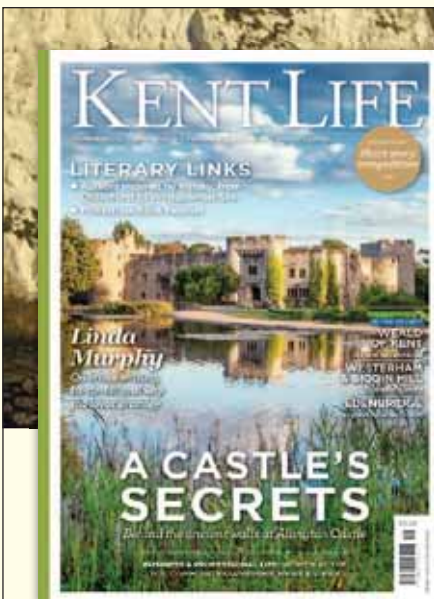
Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in order to help promote Kent to a wider audience?

Someone who has shown that they are passionate about local produce throughout?

Now is the chance for you to nominate your very own Kent Food and Drink hero and give them the recognition that they deserve.

Get in contact with us and let us know who you think would be a worthy winner.

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Finances add up to stay in EU

THE sheer volume of serious and sobering evidence against turning our backs on Europe is overwhelming.

The Treasury assessment showing a £4,300 cost to families, gives another stark warning about the impact on every household in Britain.

There is no doubt the economic impact of Britain rejecting the European market of 500 million consumers would be devastating to our country's finances; to the work prospects of British people, and to our ability to attract world class investment.

The dramatic and dangerous impact of Brexit on the economy will blow a hole in public finances, and offer the biggest threat to public services since the recession.

We cannot stand by and let Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage throw a hand grenade into our economic recovery, and then be left in charge of looking after the NHS, our schools, and local services.

It's clear that in Europe, Britain can thrive. Together we can be a stronger and more prosperous nation, creating opportunity for future generations, and respected all over the world.

Alan Bullion,
 Tunbridge Wells

Leave could stop live export trade

WITH the live export through Ramsgate of sheep and calves expected to resume soon, we look forward to a possible breakthrough in our efforts to stop the trade.

Currently campaigning for an amendment to subordinate UK legislation, we are hopeful that a vote to leave the EU will be delivered in June.

When Thanet District Council placed a temporary ban on the trade, they were found guilty of breaking EU law and ordered to pay compensation which is still being argued over but has risen to £4.6 million to date.

The fact is that a leave vote will remove the largest single obstacle to our banning live exports forever from UK ports.

Reg Bell,
 Thanet Against Live Exports

Christian JP is quite correct

IN response to Christopher Hudson-Gool's letter [KoS 10.04]

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Environment gets advantage of the EU

SOME of your correspondents show a disappointing lack of vision and ambition when it comes to the European Union [KoS letters, last week]. Never mind Project Fear, there is a strong, positive and progressive case for Britain remaining in the EU and taking a lead.

Put simply, the EU offers a way of working across borders to achieve social and environmental progress, that simply would not be possible if the UK were to walk away. This is particularly important when it comes to the environment.

The EU has initiated around 80 per cent of all environmental laws in the UK. Through the birds and habitats directives the UK has designated hundreds of nature and marine conservation sites. EU standards on air quality, healthy rivers and clean beaches have forced successive UK governments to take action.

On the biggest environmental challenge of all, climate change,

coordinated action is the best option. The EU has pushed for ambitious targets and plays an important role in promoting measures to achieve these targets.

We haven't heard much in this debate so far from younger people, who tend to be strongly in favour of our remaining part of the EU. The local campaigners, on both sides, that I've met tend to be over 50. With all due respect to the 'grey vote' (and I'm 57!) those in favour of Britain leaving do not seem to be paying much attention to the views and ambitions of the younger people who will have to live with the consequences of Brexit rather longer than they will.

In a world where threats and opportunities are increasingly cross-border, our membership of the EU gives us tremendous advantages – let's keep them and work with others across Europe to make it even better.

Richard Byatt
 West Malling

concerning Christian magistrate Richard Page, I could have forecast he would be quick to respond.

I now await more provocative comments from Ray Duff who appears to come from the same stable.

The treatment meted out to Richard Page is a national disgrace. Those responsible need to be publicly named and shamed.

David Cameron recently urged us to stand up proudly for Christian values "that make the country great". If this man remains in office much longer, we shall have no Christian values left. He should go along with the EU.

Regarding adoption by same sex couples, a simple question for the PM and others - would you be happy for a child or grandchild of yours to be raised by a same-sex couple? Focus on the child, not the couple.

I'm prepared for the brick bats,
Mary McNulty,
 Brenchley

God created it all, you know

IN reply to the letter from G Walker [KoS, March 27], who thinks we

should all do away with our faith and live without any constraints, well I that's why we have the world we have.

It's obvious they know nothing about God who created the world and everything in it. That includes nature. It's the evil in man's heart that causes us all the suffering in the world. We all have a choice.

I Grant,
 Ashford

Tell your editor to embrace Boris

RIGHTLY or wrongly I have regarded KOS as a paper that gives us the story without bias.

The editorial by Chris Britcher [KoS, 26.03] indicates that Chris is unnerved that Boris Johnson may become prime minister and the airport in the Thames Estuary may be resurrected. I'm with Boris Johnson.

So Chris's statement that "no wonder, then, the good people of Kent get so touchy about it" unquote, means I am no good because I have an opinion different to his or KoS'.

And further more his statement that an enormous airport would change the county forever more is a touch of exaggeration.

I cannot see that the airport situated in the estuary will in any way or worry anyone from here in Newington to all points south, west or east of Kent. If it does why don't you give the reasons why it will? And stop spreading alarm.

It seems pretty obvious to me that if the airport comes about then it will take several years to build and up and running therefore Heathrow and Gatwick will still be running for years yet.

Please KOS give us the news so we the public can make our own minds up.

Peter Robinson,
 via email

Come on KoS, get it right!

IN YOUR article regarding the brutal murder of Roy Blackman [KoS, last week], when pluralizing words like 'in-law' the noun is pluralized, not the modifier - hence 'sons-in-law' and 'brothers-in-law' not 'son-in-laws' and 'brother-in-laws'.

The purpose of newspapers is not only to dispense news, but should also ensure correct usage of the English language to assist your readers whose mother tongue may not be English.

J Phelps,
 Aylesford

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Dungeness by Peter Banks, Tankerton

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RENAULT REVIVERS:
all-new Mégane (main picture),
plus the Captur (top left), Clio
(top right) and Kadjar (below)

Mégane highlights Renault restoration

BRAND UPDATE: French marque was down in the dumps in 2012, but has reversed its fortunes and now outperforms the UK market...

LATER this year, Renault welcomes its fourth generation Mégane to contest the hard fought family hatchback sector.

Using design language already seen in both the hugely successful Captur crossover and latest Clio supermini, it looks like another winner and should turbocharge UK sales growth for the French marque, currently more than 16 per cent up on its 2015 volumes so far this year, in a market that is just five per cent up.

It's all a far cry from 2012, when Renault was losing market share and was forced to slash an unwieldy model line-up.

The subsequent revival is all the more impressive when it may have cannibalised some of its own sales by launching Romanian budget brand Dacia in 2013.

But then Renault's mission is a move upmarket, highlighted by the style and quality of the Clio, Captur and, more recently, the latter's big brother, the Kadjar.

Part SUV, MPV/estate car and hatchback, the Kadjar offers two or four-wheel drive, CO2 emissions as low as 99g/km and 74.3mpg (official combined).

Renault sales and image have also benefitted from the latest and funkiest Twingo city car, with its compact rear-wheel drive five-door



format and tight turning circle. It is as dramatic looking as its predecessor was low-key.

Renault has now cast itself as the champion of electric power too, with impressive contenders in both commercial and passenger car markets, in the form of the Kangoo ZE light van and Zoe city car.

The five-door Zoe itself is welcome proof that electric cars don't need to look like they've been styled by a thwack with a giant frying pan.

But the special on the menu will be the next Mégane, which looks like a return to the panache of the Mark II model – famous for its protruding 'booty' and cheeky TV ads.

The Vauxhall Astra - Europe's star car

Vauxhall's family hatchback was a deserving winner of Europe's top car award this year and shows the brand's upmarket ambition writes **Steve Loader...**

WE'VE seen some weird and wonderfuls win the coveted European Car of the Year award. An early 'champion' was the hideous Austin 1800 – a supersized and unwanted exponent of Sir Alec Issigonis' otherwise brilliant front-wheel drive/transverse engine layout from the original Mini.

In 1982, the ugly Renault 9 saloon mounted a smash and grab when it should really have won Cruft's.

A more recent hiccup was 2011, when the Nissan Leaf won, confirming my theory that manufacturers produce ugly electric cars in order to ensure we continue buying internal combustion models.

But common sense prevailed this year: Vauxhall's new Astra (from £15,295) won with 312 votes, beating off the formidable challenge from Volvo's XC90 (294).

How could a humble five-door family hatchback beat such an upmarket technological tour de force? Because the Astra is just as clever.

The key is the forensic way in which Vauxhall/Opel designers and engineers went about slashing weight, boosting handling, power and economy.

Some 200 kilos were lifted from



the old car's kerb weight: more than the weight of two average UK male passengers, and bettering weight-saving boasts about cars far bigger than the Astra.

The diet came from lighter yet stronger materials and sometimes tiny incremental savings from components like the exhaust system, brakes and wheels.

It has also affected the car's size: the previous five-door Astra was spacious inside, but had one of the biggest on-road footprints in its class.

The new Astra's cabin is slightly bigger, but the car is slightly smaller outside and supermini nimble, while as comfortable as an executive saloon, even when pushing an impressively flat and composed



cornering stance to the limit.

Vauxhall also tuned the British-built car's chassis on our roads, a baptism guaranteeing it will perform on extreme surfaces elsewhere in Europe.

And it is sleeker and more slippery, with a drag co-efficient of Cd 0.285 versus the old model's 0.325, and a black rear pillar panel suggesting a raked roof belying excellent rear

Vauxhall Astra Elite Nav 1.4i 150PS Turbo

Price:	from £20,315
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Golf

headroom and generous legroom.

The dashboard is neat and well-organised with a user-friendly touchscreen. The ground-breaking, potentially lifesaving, OnStar system is also offered: a high-speed 4G mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery alert – it works.

Lightweight powertrains complement the car too, especially the all-new 1.4-litre turbo petrol tested here, offering 0-60mph in 7.8 seconds yet also putting a mid-40s average mpg within reach.

What's not to like? Vauxhall's problem is its badge. The General Motors brand is in transition, aiming to move upmarket – highlighted by some of the best interiors in the business – and wants to shrug off its 'repmobile reputation'. All it can do is to keep plugging away and winning awards – on merit.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Astra 5dr Design 1.4i 100PS: Urban: 38.7 (7.3), Extra-urban: 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 52.3 (5.4). CO₂ emissions: 124g/km.#

Participating Retailers only. Model featured Astra Design 1.4i 100PS in Power Red from £15,295 on the road. Offer price £14,495. Offer available on orders or registrations between 1 April and 30 June 2016, subject to availability. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Prices shown are list price at the time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. UK-supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.



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Representative Example Renault CLIO Play 1.2 16V 75

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 39.2 (7.2)–47.1 (6); extra-urban 60.1 (4.7)–62.8 (4.5); combined 51.4 (5.5)–55.4 (5.1). The official CO₂ emissions are 127–114g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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MPS/UPS + SEN + TLR 2C £2,613 (TLR with previous experience)

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This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 29th April 2016 Interviews: 6th May 2016

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Experience of working in a busy environment would be beneficial.

Applicants should ensure they refer to the person specification, within the recruitment pack, before applying. Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: 27 April 2016 (noon)

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

Westlands School, Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

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Abbey Court School delivers a full curriculum to pupils with Severe, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties between the ages of 3 to 19. The school is split and based at two sites 12 miles apart: (Nursery/Primary in Rainham and Secondary/F.E. in Strood), and is located in pleasant surroundings with educational resources of enviable proportions.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 29th April 2016 Interviews: 9th & 10th May 2016

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that (a) Edmund Anthony Sargeant of (b) The Loft, Evington Park, Elmsted, Kent TN25 5JH has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a (c) Premises Licence for the sale of alcohol Restaurant and Lounge Bar with public dining and lounge bar and corporate/private rooms. A warm and inviting atmosphere, somewhere to relax with friends or on business. High level service and premium food and drink menus. Pre theatre show packages offered. - Opening times Monday – Saturday 11.00 – 00.00 & Sunday 11.00 – 22.00. - The sale of alcohol Monday – Saturday 11.00 – 23.40 and Sunday 11.00– 21.40. - Recorded (background) music played Monday – Saturday 11.00. – 00.00 and Sunday 12.00 – 22.00. - Showing of films (Silent black and white movies projected as background image) Monday – Saturday 11.00 – 00.00 and Sunday 11.00 – 22.00. - Live music Monday – Saturday 11.00 – 00.00 and Sunday 11.00 – 22.00 (only used for occasional events) - Dance Monday – Saturday 11.00 – 00.00 and Sunday 11.00 – 22.00 (only used for occasional events) Accommodation limited to 200 guests at any one time. for the premises (d) Theatre House, Ground Floor situated at (e) 4-6 Orange Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2JA. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing> or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by (f) 18/05/2016

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Amelia Estates Limited, 91 High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XT has applied to the Licensing Partnership PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP on 19 April 2016 for the grant of a Premises Licence to use the premises Strawberry Moons, 28-32 Gabriels Hill, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JG for the purposes of selling intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises as well as providing hot and cold food and snacks and non-alcoholic drinks together with provision of the following other licensable activities the provision of films, provision of indoor sporting events, provision of boxing or wrestling entertainments, live music, recorded music, performances of dance and anything of a similar description as well as late night refreshment and the licensable activities are to be undertaken between the hours of 11.00am and 5.00am Monday-Sunday inclusive without seasonal variation.

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004.

Any person wishing to make representations about this application should make them in writing on or before 17 May 2016.

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP. licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk <http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing/>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Gullands, 16 Mill Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6XT
Solicitors on behalf of the applicant
Ref: 108/82544.9

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It Pays To Advertise

Scrapping of toss pleases Northeast

Visiting skippers will now get to decide who bowls first ball...

Cricket

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A CHANGE in the rules regarding who bowls first in county cricket has been hailed by Kent captain Sam Northeast ahead of this weekend's trip to Leicestershire.

The ECB announced this season that the visiting captain will be offered the opportunity of bowling first, rather than a mandatory coin toss.

Northeast said last year at the same venue that abandoning the toss might help improve pitches and re-ignite parity, and it seems ten months on, he has got his way.

"It's a big step in the right direction as I see it," he said.

"That Leicester game was the last straw for me in terms of the type of pitches we were coming up against on the road in the first half of last season.

"You don't mind the odd sporting pitch here and there, but it was starting to become a general theme wherever we went, so I'm glad something has changed.

"Better pitches will help batsmen in general and help spin bowlers across the country to get involved in four-day cricket again because we want to see the likes of James Tredwell, Adam Riley and Imran Qayyum winning games for Kent and getting opportunities with England.

"Division 2 wasn't in a healthy place in my view and I believe the ECB's changes will help, even if this isn't the final solution."

Kent have yet to bowl a ball in this season's County Championship after



PLEASED: Sam Northeast feels the change is a step in the right direction

Pictures: ADY KERRY

all four days were abandoned due to a saturated outfield at Worcester a fortnight ago.

Joe Denly faces a fitness test on a side strain, but Northeast and his side will be boosted by the arrival of new signing Tom Latham on Monday, who will be in contention to face

Glamorgan at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence on Sunday week.

This week also saw the retirement of batsman Rob Key, who spent his entire career with Kent since his debut in 1998, and stands as the most prolific run scorer at Canterbury.

Dack crowned League One Player of the Year

Football

GILLINGHAM'S Bradley Dack was crowned League One's Player of the Year at the Football League Awards in Manchester on Sunday evening.

The 22-year-old midfielder, whose 15 goals and 10 assists this season have helped the Gills into the play-off places, beat Walsall's Romaine Sawyers and Nicky Ajose, of Swindon Town, to the gong.

"It's a massive honour to win this award," he said.

"I owe a lot to my dad and mum – she's watching at home I think.

"Manager Justin Edinburgh has been massive for me since he came in, he showed faith in me, so I owe a lot to him.

"We've had a great start to the



GONG: Bradley Dack

season, nobody expected us to be where we are, we now want to go and finish the job."

The awards were voted for by managers of each division's clubs; all those from League One were asked to list their top five players from this season in order, with the votes added up and the top three forming the shortlist.

Previous victors of the award include Joe Garner (2015), Jordan Rhodes (2012) and Craig Mackail-Smith (2011).

Dack, who recently returned to first-team action having been sidelined by a hamstring injury, was also named in the Football League's Team of the Season, which comprises the best 11 players from all three divisions.

Gillingham salvaged a point away at Rochdale in the week to keep their hopes alive of making the play-offs - and promotion to the Championship.

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

All change at Welling as relegation is sealed

WELLING United have announced that first team manager Dean Frost has left the club by mutual consent after the club's relegation from the National League was confirmed last week.

Mark Goldberg will take on first team management responsibilities for the remainder of the season with a view to potentially taking on ownership of the club in the near future.

A spokesperson for Welling United said: "The club wishes to express its gratitude to Dean and his assistants Barry Ashby and Jamie Turner who have also decided to leave.

"Dean took on the position with the club under a serious threat of relegation, regrettably results have not been what either Dean, or the club, would have hoped for and, with relegation now confirmed, the club want to start making preparations as early as possible for what we aim to be a successful season in the National South."

The Wings have just one fixture remaining after this weekend.



GUTTED: Welling United



READY: Fighters from Maidstone Boxing Club

Maidstone boxers to descend on Sussex

BOXING trainer Joe Smith is targeting a big night of wins when his stable of young fighters step through the ropes in west Sussex next month.

Smith will make the trip on May 14 with four of Maidstone's hottest prospects to compete in the Queensbury Boxing League's High Stakes event.

"First up we've got Lenny Fuller in

middleweight action, then we've got Joe Draper who has tremendous power," he said.

"Our youngest lad on the show is Charlie Adams - he's only 18 but he's got bags of skill.

"And finally we've got Mark Hiscott making his competitive debut – he's only been in the gym eight months but he's one of those guys who just naturally has talent."

141 for Hawkins in first round

BARRY Hawkins advanced to the second round of the snooker world championships on Wednesday with a comfortable 10-5 win over China's Zhang Anda.

The Ditton potter first took to the table in Sheffield at 7pm on Tuesday and finished the job the following day, including a 141 break - which when going to press was the highest of the competition so far.

He faces a tough test in the last 16, however, where he meets old foe Ronnie O'Sullivan this weekend, who thrashed Hawkins 10-1 in the Masters at Alexandra Palace earlier this year.

Hawkins has a good recent record at the Crucible, though, having reached the final in 2013 and the semi-finals in each of the tournaments since.

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